



A Girl Scout Guide to Pennsylvania State Parks

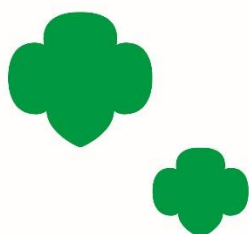


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Introduction



This document serves to help volunteers learn about Pennsylvania's state parks, making it easier for them to bring their girls to state parks.

Pennsylvania state parks are always approved sites for Girl Scouts.

For additional support or any questions, please contact Customer Care at 800-248-3355 or customercare@gsdpa.org.

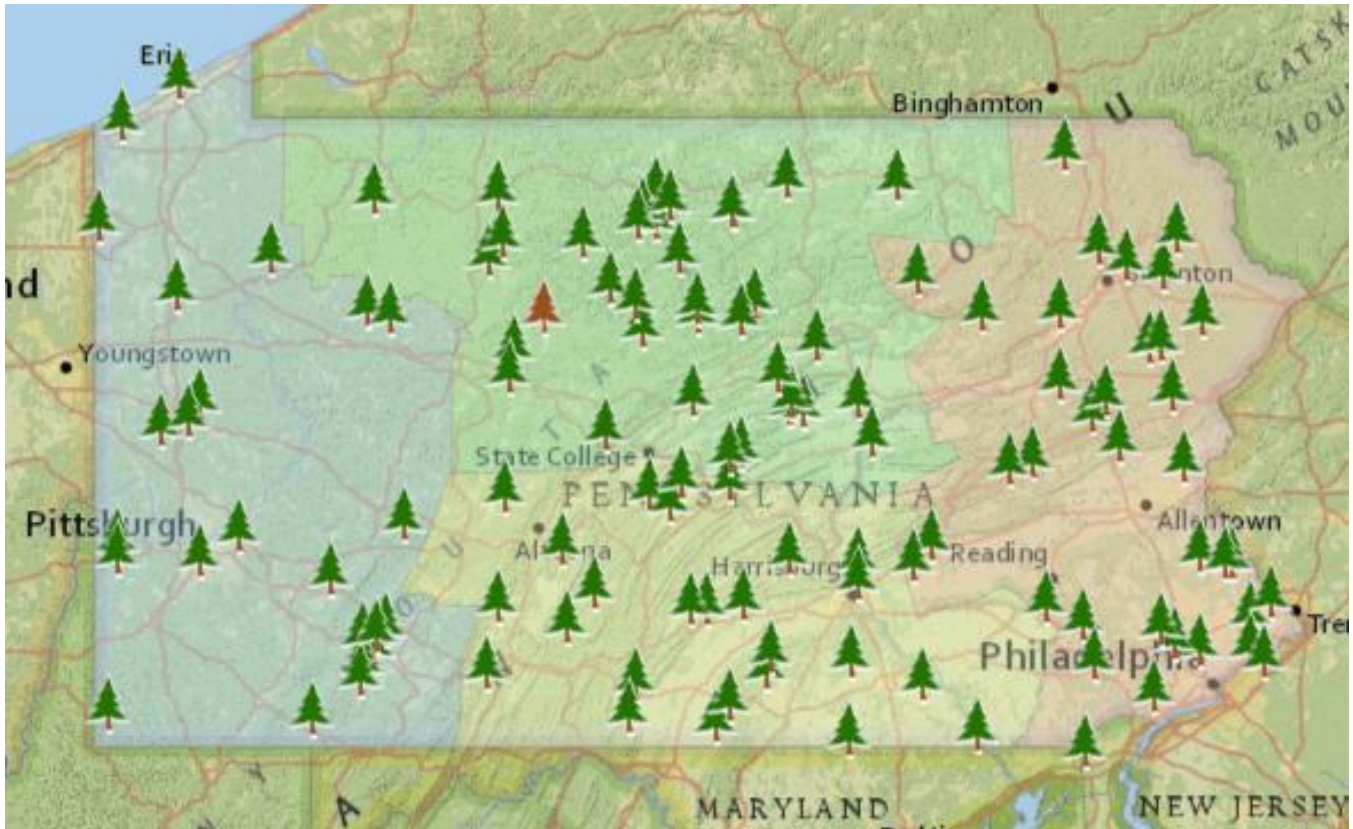
GSWPA Resources:

GSWPA website	www.gsdpa.org
Volunteer Resources	http://www.gsdpa.org/en/for-volunteers/online-support-for-volunteers.html
Safety Activity Checkpoints	http://www.gsdpa.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsdpa/documents/Searchableforms/Safety/Safety%20Activity%20Checkpoints.pdf
<i>Volunteer Essentials</i>	https://www.joomag.com/magazine/volunteer-essentials-volunteer-essentials-2015-16/0171829001444067728?short
Outdoor Skills Training	http://www.gsdpa.org/en/for-volunteers/online-support-for-volunteers/training--enrichment/outdoor-skills-training-1.html
Regional State Parks Map	http://www.gsdpa.org/en/activities/regional-state-parks-map.html

DCNR Resources:

State Parks Website	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/index.aspx
Camping Information	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/staythenight/camping
Group Tenting for Organized Groups	http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/staythenight/organizedgrouptenting/index.htm
Other Overnight Options	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/staythenight/index.htm
Reservations	https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do?tti=Home

Pennsylvania State Parks



This map shows every state park in Pennsylvania, with each park represented by a pine tree.

Why should I visit a state park?

While Girl Scout camps offer a number of opportunities for outdoor fun, there are immeasurable resources and experiences available at state parks.

Here's a sampling of outdoor activities that you can do at Pennsylvania state parks:

- picnicking
- rock climbing
- disc golfing
- orienteering
- geocaching
- hiking
- horseback riding
- rollerblading
- bicycling
- mountain biking
- fishing
- swimming
- scuba diving
- whitewater boating
- sailing
- canoeing
- boating
- snowshoeing
- cross-country skiing
- sledding
- ice fishing
- ice skating
- downhill skiing
- ice boating
- wildlife watching
- camping
- backpacking

There are also environmental education and interpretation programs at many state parks. Park rangers have a wealth of knowledge to share. You can explore events calendars on individual parks' websites, or call parks and ask if staff are willing to host a custom program for just your troop or service unit.

What should I do if I want to visit a state park?

Review this document! It has lots of useful information about visiting and staying at state parks.

Next, then research which park you want to visit! You can go online to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource [Find a Park resource](#) or you can use Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania's [state park map](#) to decide which park you want to visit.

Here's a list of all the state parks in western Pennsylvania:

- [Allegheny Islands State Park](#)
- [Clear Creek State Park](#)
- [Cook Forest State Park](#)
- [Erie Bluffs State Park](#)
- [Hillman State Park](#)
- [Jennings Environmental Education Center](#)
- [Keystone State Park](#)
- [Kooser State Park](#)
- [Laurel Hill State Park](#)
- [Laurel Mountain State Park](#)
- [Laurel Ridge State Park](#)
([Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail](#))
- [Laurel Summit State Park](#)
- [Linn Run State Park](#)
- [Maurice K. Goddard State Park](#)
- [McConnells Mill State Park](#)
- [Moraine State Park](#)
- [Ohiopyle State Park](#)
- [Oil Creek State Park](#)
- [Point State Park](#)
- [Presque Isle State Park](#)
- [Pymatuning State Park](#)
- [Raccoon Creek State Park](#)
- [Ryerson Station State Park](#)
- [Yellow Creek State Park](#)

Here are a few things to keep in mind when planning your trip to a state park:

- Involve girls in the planning process! Maybe they want to go to a specific park or do a particular activity. Give them the freedom and input to plan as much of the trip as is appropriate.
- If you're spending the night, be sure to reserve a site ahead of time.
- Bring any required forms, both for DCNR and Girl Scouts. Remember, Pennsylvania state parks do not require insurance, but you still need trip and high risk forms from GSWPA.
- Get trained – at least one approved volunteer on the trip should have attended Outdoor Skills Training through GSWPA, and at least one approved volunteer should be CPR/First Aid trained.
- Review [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for any activities you want to do.
- Keep ratio.

Where to Stay



When spending the night in a state park, there are three basic options:

- **Camping:** If you bring your shelter (tent, RV, trailer)
- **Lodging:** If state parks provide the shelter, (cabin, camping cottage, yurt, house, inn)
- **Organized Group Tenting or Organized Group Cabin Camps:** If you plan to bring a large organized group, such as a Girl Scout Service Unit

CAMPING

Camping requires you to bring your own shelter in addition to equipment. You'll have to bring anything and everything you want to use in the park, with the exception of water for campsites with water service. You can collect down or dead wood for fires, but it's advisable to bring your own firewood.

Safety Activity Checkpoints don't require any extra supervision for camping. Whatever ratio you normally need for your group of girls is the same ratio you need for camping.

Camping is approved for all ages, but it's recommended that Daisies only participate in overnight camping experiences. Travel camping is not recommended for Daisies and Brownies.



Types of Campsites

- **Full Service** - Nearby restrooms have a toilet and warm showers; and the campsite has sewer, water, electric hookup, picnic table, and fire ring.
- **Modern** - Nearby restrooms have flush toilets and warm showers; and the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring.
- **Rustic** - Nearby restrooms have vault toilets (like the composting toilets at some GSWPA camps); and the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring.
- **Modern/Rustic** - Nearby restrooms have modern facilities in the warmer months, then have rustic facilities in the colder months; and the campsite has a picnic table and fire ring.
- **Multi-site** - Allows up to 15 people; available at Keystone and Ohiopyle State Parks.
- **Walk-in** - Reached by a short walk; campsite has a picnic table and fire ring.
- **Backpacking/Adirondack Shelters/Designated Campsite** - Sleep in your own tent or rent a shelter. Available in five parks only: Laurel Ridge, Ohiopyle, Moraine, Oil Creek, and Raccoon Creek State Parks.
- **River Camping** - Available only at Clear Creek State Park.
- **Equestrian Camping** - Space for horses; available only at Kettle Creek and Promised Land State Parks.
- **Walled Tents** - Pre-built on platforms; and includes electricity.

Amenities

- **Electric** - At specific sites for a fee (amperage may vary at each park/site). Please note: most campgrounds will not have electricity.
- **Water** - At a limited number of campgrounds at specific sites for a fee. Please note: some campgrounds will not have a water source.
- **Full Service Hookup** - At specific sites for a fee: sewage, water, and electric hook ups (amperage) may vary at each park/site.

Full-Service Campsite Project

Because visitors have asked for it, full service campsites are being added to selected Pennsylvania State Park campgrounds. Full service includes sewer, water, and electric hookups.

Current Campgrounds

- Bald Eagle (Russell P. Letterman)
- Black Moshannon
- Cook Forest
- French Creek
- Gifford Pinchot
- Greenwood Furnace
- Hickory Run
- Hills Creek
- Kooser
- Laurel Hill
- Parker Dam
- Prince Gallitzin
- Promised Land (Pickrel Point)
- Pymatuning (Jamestown, Linesville)
- Shawnee

Backpacking

Some parks have backpacking trails and shelters. Below are the parks with these resources:

Laurel Ridge State Park and Ohiopyle State Park – [Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail](#)

- Trail mileage: 70 miles
- Overnight sites: 8 sites, 5 shelters per site, 25 tent spaces per site
- Amenities available: Firewood, fireplaces, fire rings, pit toilets
- Amenities NOT available: Check in at park office for availability of water



Moraine State Park – [North Country National Scenic Trail](#)

- Trail mileage: 25.9 miles within McConnells Mill, Moraine, and Jennings, 13.9 miles within just Moraine, 4,600 miles total
- Overnight sites: 1 site, 3 shelters, 0 tent spaces
- Amenities available: restroom, fire ring
- Amenities NOT available: firewood, water

Oil Creek State Park – [Oil Creek/Gerard Hiking Trail](#)

- Trail mileage: 36 miles
- Overnight sites: 2 sites, 6 shelters per site, tent spaces are available
- Amenities available: water (April 1 to November 1), firewood (when available), restrooms, picnic table, and fireplaces
- Amenities NOT available: N/A

Raccoon Creek State Park – [Raccoon Creek Backpacking Trail](#)

- Backpacking trail loop mileage: 44 miles
- Overnight sites: 2 sites, 5 shelters per site, 5 tent spaces per site
- Amenities available: water, fire ring, pit latrines/port-a-johns available 1/4-mile from campsite
- Amenities NOT available: firewood (may be purchased at park office)

Safety Activity Checkpoints don't require any extra supervision for backpacking. Whatever ratio you normally need for your group of girls is the same ratio you need for backpacking.

Backpacking is approved for all ages, but it is not recommended for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies.

There's a comprehensive list of required backpacking gear found in the Safety Activity Checkpoints document and a thorough overview of how to prepare for your trip.

Wilderness Camping

True wilderness camping, hiking in and putting up a tent where you choose, is not permitted in Pennsylvania State Parks. All camping must be in a designated camping area and on designated sites.

True wilderness camping is available on Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry lands. Permits are required in advance. Visit the [forestry camping website](#) for information on locations and rules:

LODGING

Lodges provide a sheltered space and have a variety of amenities, from full bathrooms and kitchens to just having a roof over your head and electrical outlets. Don't assume that lodges will have the equipment you need. Bring anything and everything you want to use in the park, with the exception of water for sites with water service. You can collect down or dead wood for fires, but it's advisable to bring your own firewood.

Lodges are a great option for younger girls, such as Daisies or Brownies, or for less experienced campers.



Camping Cottages

Camping cottages sleep five people in a single bunk and a single/double bunk. Camping cottages have:

- wooden walls, floors;
- windows;
- electric lights and outlets; and
- a porch.

Camping cottages may or may not be within the campground. Restrooms and/or showers are nearby.

Deluxe Cottages and Yurts

Deluxe cottages sleep five or six people in bunk beds. Deluxe cottages have:

- bedroom and main room
- cooking stove, microwave, refrigerator
- countertop, table, chairs
- electric heat and outlets
- fire ring
- picnic table
- adjacent water pump

Yurts sleep four or five people in bunk beds. Yurts are round huts on wooden decking, and have:

- cooking stove, refrigerator
- countertop, table, chairs
- electric heat and outlets
- fire ring
- picnic table
- adjacent water pump

Cabins

For all cabin rentals, visitors need to bring bed linens, towels, dishes, pots, and pans.

Modern Cabins:

- beautiful log cabins with modern conveniences
- electric heat
- restroom with shower
- full kitchen
- carpeting
- two-bedroom/sleeps six, or three-bedroom/sleeps eight
- wooden cathedral ceiling in the main living area
- picnic table and fire ring

Rustic Cabins:

- quaint stone or log cabins
- refrigerator
- fireplace, wood stove, or gas heater for heat
- gas or electric kitchen stove
- sleep between two and eight people
- outdoor plumbing and restroom
- many are historic and built by the CCC in the 1930s



Unique Houses

Certain state parks have one-of-a-kind houses. Check with individual parks to see if they have unique housing available. Unique houses have:

- Modern conveniences
- Some have fireplaces
- Some houses are historic
- Modern cabin or special rates apply

Locations of unique houses:

- Clear Creek State Park – cabins and yurts on Clarion River
- Cook Forest State Park - river cabins near Clarion River
- Gifford Pinchot State Park - cabins, camping cottages, and yurts on Pinchot Lake
- Keystone State Park - camping cottage on Keystone Lake
- Kooser State Park - cabins on Kooser Run
- Linn Run State Park - cabins on Linn Run
- Moraine State Park - cabins on Lake Arthur
- Nockamixon State Park - cabins on Lake Nockamixon
- Prince Gallitzin State Park - cabins and cottages on Lake Glendale
- Pymatuning State Park - cabins on Pymatuning Reservoir
- Shawnee State Park - Shawnee Lodge on an island in Shawnee Lake
- Worlds End State Park - cabins on Loyalsock Creek

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING

Need more room for your group to camp? Try an organized group tent camping area which are specifically made for large groups.

Eligible Groups

An organized group has a formal organization to coordinate and carry out its activities, appointed or elected leadership, and holds periodic meetings.

Girl Scouts is considered an organized youth group because we are a formal organization with the majority of our members under the age of 18, so Girl Scout troops are eligible for organized group tenting.

ORGANIZED GROUP CABIN CAMPS

The basic element of the organized group cabin camp is the unit, which generally consists of sleeping cabins or barrack-type sleeping facilities, toilets, and a unit lodge (activity building).

The sleeping cabins can sleep either two or four people while barracks can sleep up to 26 people. Cabin camps also have a central shower house, first aid building, dining hall, staff quarters, camp office, and parking. All buildings are unheated, but a few have fireplaces.

Located in five state parks, organized group camps were built in the mid-1930s as Federal Recreation Demonstration Areas by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Some of the camp buildings once served as living quarters for the CCC members who worked developing the parks.

Email individual parks to request applications to stay at these locations.

Locations of group cabin camps in Western Pennsylvania:

- **Laurel Hill** - Camp 1 holds 150 people, Camp 3 holds 124 people, and Camps 5 and 8 each hold 150 people in barracks. The camps are open the first Friday in June to September 30. Located in a wooded setting with open areas, the camps are near a lake for swimming, boating, and fishing, and near hiking trails, visitor center, and basketball and volleyball courts.
- **Raccoon Creek** - These three camps are rented from mid-April (earliest) to mid-October (latest), for a nominal fee to nonprofit, organized, adult and youth groups like scout, YMCA, school, church, or other organizations. The camps contain rustic lodges, dining halls, cabins, and utility buildings. Camp 1 holds 30 campers, Camp 2 holds 130 campers, and Camp 3 holds 80 campers. Seasonal availability varies.

Locations of group cabin camps in Central PA:

- **Blue Knob** - A 100-person capacity camp is available for overnight use to organized groups from June through August. The group camp offers sleeping quarters, bathroom and shower facilities, and a large dining hall/kitchen complex. A reservation system is based on previous long-term use, priority for youth groups, length of stay, and number of people.

Locations of group cabin camps in Eastern PA:

- **French Creek** - Camp 1 holds 135 people and Camp Clewell holds 68 people. The camps are open from April 15 to October 15. Located in a wooded setting with open areas, the camps are near two lakes, hiking trails, and other recreational opportunities.
- **Hickory Run** - Camp Daddy Allen holds 124 people and Camp Shehaqua holds 149 people. The camps are open from the second Friday in April through the third Sunday in October. Located in a wooded setting with adjacent play fields, there are more than 40 miles of hiking trails, three state park natural areas, and nearby lake swimming. The camps share a swimming pool that is open from about June 1 to Labor Day. Groups must supply their own certified lifeguards. Camp Daddy Allen has paved walkways and railings but does not meet the new ADA accessibility standards.

Eligible Groups

Organized group cabin camps may only be used by organized youth and adult groups that have current non-profit status under current federal regulations.

Girl Scouts is considered an organized youth group because we are a formal organization with the majority of our members under the age of 18, so Girl Scout troops are eligible for organized group cabins.

Groups must provide proof of non-profit status when submitting the *Application for Organized Group Cabin Camp Permit* to the respective state park office. To get this, please contact GSWPA at customercare@gswpa.org.

Organizations must submit a roster of their campers. The *Roster Form* is available at the park office and must be completed prior to being issued a camping permit. The roster must list the names of all campers in the party.



How do I make a reservation?

Most campsites in Pennsylvania state parks can be reserved 11 months in advance to noon of the day of arrival.

Make an online reservation or call 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on the Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day holidays.

Reservations can be made using MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover credit cards, or personal, traveler's, and cashier's checks, or Pennsylvania State Parks gift card. To receive a confirmed reservation, full payment must be received by DCNR within 10 days of making the reservation.

What if I arrive without a reservation?

Advance reservations are available for almost all campsites. Unreserved sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If an employee is unavailable, read posted instructions, check the site availability listing, and then proceed to an available site and set up.

The appropriate fee must be paid to a park employee or deposited in a supplied honor system envelope before setting up on a campsite.

Changes and Cancellations

Changes to a reservation must be made by calling the Pennsylvania State Parks Reservation Call Center at 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. There is a \$10 fee assessed for all changes made to a reservation, except adding nights to the reservation.

Cancellations can be made via the call center or web. Cancellations made up to the close of business seven days prior to your scheduled arrival date will incur a \$10 cancellation fee per reservation. If you cancel six days or less prior to the arrival date, you will forfeit the first night's fee or \$75, whichever is the lesser amount.

A \$10 fee per reservation is assessed for all changes made to your reservation, except for adding nights to the reservation.

If a reservation receives the weekly discounted rate, any change that results in shortening the stay, will cause the customer to lose the benefit of the weekly rate. A new daily rate will be calculated for the remaining dates, which will affect any amount refunded.

Please note, reservations made at the maximum window (11 months to the day), or with a departure date after the maximum booking window, are not permitted to move or cancel their reservation for 22 days. After 22 days, patrons can change or move their reservation for a \$10 transfer fee.

Any cancellation or change on the day of arrival must be made through the state park.

PRICING

Pricing for different activities and overnight options vary from park to park, but below is an estimate of per night prices for different activities lodging options for Pennsylvania residents (non-Pennsylvania residents pay slightly more).



Camping	
Campsite	\$15
Backpacking/River Camping	\$4 per person
Equestrian Camping	\$19
Walled Tents	\$32 - \$52
Additional Charges:	
Friday/Saturday Holidays, Events	\$4
Modern (Showers)	\$4
Adirondack Shelters	\$2
Electricity	\$6.50
Water	\$8
Water and Sewer	\$13
Designated Pet Campsite	\$2
Extra Vehicle	\$5
Multi-Campsite	\$18
Camping Unit Storage	\$3.50

Lodging	
Rustic Cabins	\$19.81 - \$104.72
Modern Cabins	\$55.66 - \$139.62
Yurts	\$35 - \$84
Camping Cottages	\$35 - \$54
Deluxe Cottages	\$52 - \$104
Additional Charges:	
Designated Dog Friendly Facility	\$2 - \$15

Rustic Group Tenting	
20 or fewer people	\$28 - \$38
21 to 41 people	\$43 - \$53
41 to 60 people	\$57 - \$67
61 to 100 people	\$72 - \$82
101 or more people	\$125 - \$135

Modern Group Tenting	
20 or fewer people	\$34 - \$44
21 to 41 people	\$48 - \$58
41 to 60 people	\$64 - \$74
61 to 100 people	\$79 - \$89
101 or more people	\$140 - \$150

Group Cabin Camps	
30 or fewer people	\$88 - \$104 (with utilities)
31 to 50 people	\$88 - \$104 (without utilities)
51 to 125 people	\$108 - \$127 (without utilities)
126 or more people	\$128 - \$151 (without utilities)
101 or more people	\$140 - \$150 (without utilities)
Additional Charges:	
Utilities	\$51 - \$100

Swimming	
Swimmer	\$3 - \$15
Senior Citizen	\$1.75 - \$8
Late Arrival	\$2 - \$10
Children Under 38"	Free
Group of 15 or more	\$2 - \$12 per swimmer

Picnic Pavilions and Groves	
Pavilion with Electricity	\$15 to \$325
Pavilion without Electricity	\$15 to \$200
Picnic Grove	\$30 to \$125

Discounts

Charges for camping may be waived if a Conservation Volunteer Project is performed. Contact the park manager for details. This is a great opportunity for girls to not only have a camping experience, but to also make a lasting impact through a service project. Girls could even earn their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award!



People with a disability can receive a \$4.50 discount from the base campsite price upon request.

Senior citizens, 62 years of age or older, can receive a discount on the base campsite fee at a Pennsylvania state park by showing proof of age.

There are small discounts for booking facilities for a week or more.

Swimmers get a \$1-\$8 discount (depending on the park) if they are a park camper or cabin occupant (with receipt).

There is a discount of \$20 for picnic pavilion rentals Monday-Friday (summer holidays excluded).



Supplies and Necessities



Camping Supplies Checklist

When we asked park rangers what they wished every Girl Scout would know, they said knowing what to bring would be their top priority. They suggest you print this list then check-off each item as you pack it for your camping trip to a Pennsylvania State Park. You may want to bring more stuff or less stuff, but this is a pretty complete listing for a camping trip. **Remember, state parks aren't like Girl Scout camps – equipment isn't there waiting for you and isn't prepped for your use.** You're responsible for bringing everything you will need on your trip.

Reservations

- ☐ Make reservations online or call toll free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757) up to 11 months ahead of arrival date. To ensure that you get a campsite, reserve in advance.

Packing

- ☐ backpack, daypack, fanny pack
- ☐ bags - tent bag, grocery bags, etc.
- ☐ boxes, if needed
- ☐ cooler and ice

Lighting - Check batteries!

- ☐ flashlight/lantern
- ☐ spare batteries/bulbs/fuels

Medical

- ☐ sunscreen
- ☐ insect repellent
- ☐ First Aid kit
- ☐ prescription medications

Clothing

Dress for the season. Bring warm clothes in case the weather turns cold. Don't forget these items:

- ☐ hat and sunglasses to block the sun
- ☐ jacket
- ☐ rain gear/poncho
- ☐ shower shoes
- ☐ hiking boots
- ☐ swim suit

Shelter/Bedding

- ☐ tent and extra tent stakes
- ☐ tent rain tarp
- ☐ plastic ground cloth for under the tent
- ☐ sleeping bag
- ☐ sleeping pad/mattress and inflator
- ☐ pillow and extra blanket

Cleaning & Personal Items

- ☐ shampoo and bar soap (biodegradable)
- ☐ washcloth and towel
- ☐ toothbrush and toothpaste (biodegradable)
- ☐ comb or hair brush
- ☐ toilet paper
- ☐ case to carry above items to the shower

Equipment

- ☐ ax (do not cut any living or standing trees)
- ☐ bow saw
- ☐ extension cord for campsites with electricity
- ☐ duct tape and/or electrical tape
- ☐ hammer for pounding in tent pegs
- ☐ rope
- ☐ clothesline and clothes pins
- ☐ whiskbroom to clean table and tent site
- ☐ pliers and screwdriver set
- ☐ pocket knife
- ☐ compass and area map

Miscellaneous

- ☐ cell phone and portable/car charger
- ☐ camera and batteries/charger
- ☐ money, credit card, ID
- ☐ books, radio, cards, games, toys, etc.
- ☐ sports equipment
- ☐ fishing pole and gear (+ license & bait!)
- ☐ beach/camping chairs
- ☐ citronella candles
- ☐ binoculars
- ☐ field guides for identifying wildlife/plants

Cooking

- ☐ stove with fuel or charcoal
- ☐ matches (preferably water proof)
- ☐ newspapers and/or fire starters
- ☐ firewood
- ☐ frying pan with lid
- ☐ pot or sauce pan with lid
- ☐ cooking skewers (for hot dogs, marshmallows, etc.)
- ☐ can opener
- ☐ coffee maker & filters
- ☐ pot holders/oven mitts

Dishes

- ☐ plates, mugs, cups
- ☐ knives, forks, spoons
- ☐ kitchen knife and cutting board
- ☐ mixing bowls and spoons
- ☐ spatula, tongs, serving utensils
- ☐ scrub pad
- ☐ basins for washing dishes
- ☐ water jug
- ☐ 2 water bottles per person to take hiking

Consumables

- ☐ paper towels, napkins
- ☐ trash bags, plastic bags
- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ dish soap (biodegradable)

Food & Drink

Bring whatever food you wish, but remember that you will have limited space for food that needs to be refrigerated.

Make sure that you have adequate cooking dishes and utensils to prepare what food you bring.

Outdoor appetites are usually large, so be prepared.

Be sure to store food in a safe location to keep animals from your food. Keep food in a car trunk, or hang your food between two trees.

Don't forget condiments!

In addition to these items recommended by DCNR, GSWPA wants to remind you to bring and/or complete the following:

- ☐ Health History Forms
- ☐ Permission Slips
- ☐ Trip and High Risk Forms

Have a safe and enjoyable camping experience!

Rules and Regulations



Pennsylvania State Parks are great places for outdoor activities - camping, boating, fishing, hiking, or attending environmental education programs. You can find peace and quiet, have a picnic, or watch a sunset.

Unfortunately, a few inconsiderate people damage precious park resources. These actions make it difficult for parks to balance recreational use with the conservation of park resources.

Because state parks belong to the people of Pennsylvania, we all need to work together to conserve park resources and protect the state park legacy for future generations.

Please be considerate of those who will use this state park after you. To help insure your safety and pleasure, please observe the rules and regulations which are applicable to state parks, including environmental education centers; state park preserves, conservation areas and natural areas; and waters under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic

The following are prohibited:

- Driving faster than the posted limit or, where no speed limit is posted, faster than 25 miles per hour.
- Driving on a closed road, lane, trail, or area, except with permission of DCNR.
- Driving off a road or outside a parking area, except on a trail or in an area posted as open to motor vehicles, or with written permission of DCNR.



Parking

The following are prohibited:

- Parking in handicapped parking spaces, unless one of the following requirements is met:
 - Permission has been given to a user of the vehicle.
 - A valid plate or valid placard has been issued to a user of the vehicle. Placards should be displayed.
- Parking as follows without written permission of DCNR:
 - In anywhere other than an area designated by DCNR for parking.
 - In a location that obstructs a gate, road, trail, footpath, bicycle path, access way, drinking fountain, entrance, exit, or road turnaround.
 - In an area that is posted as closed.
 - At an overnight facility.
 - When the park is closed.
 - Parking a bus in an area that is not designated for buses.

Persons with Disabilities

A person who because of a disability requires a motorized vehicle to access parts of a State park may request written permission of DCNR to use a motorized vehicle in areas not otherwise open for motorized vehicle use by the public.

CLOSURE

Except as otherwise outlined here and as otherwise posted, state parks are open to the public daily only from sunrise until sunset. Exceptions are:

- Point State Park is open to the public from sunrise to 11 p.m.
- Presque Isle State Park is open to the public from 5 a.m. until sunset. After sunset, it is open only to tenants, persons with visitor passes, and persons engaged in evening driving. The closing hour for evening driving is as posted.

Sometimes parks or portions of parks may be closed for events or for safety reasons. Abide by all posted closures.

If you are staying at a state park overnight, then you need to be at your overnight location when the park closes. You cannot wander the park at night.

ORGANIZED EVENTS & PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

Engaging or participating in any of the following activities is prohibited without written permission of DCNR:

- An exhibition, competition, or organized event.
- A public assembly, meeting, gathering, demonstration, parade, or other public expression of views.
- Distribution of printed matter.

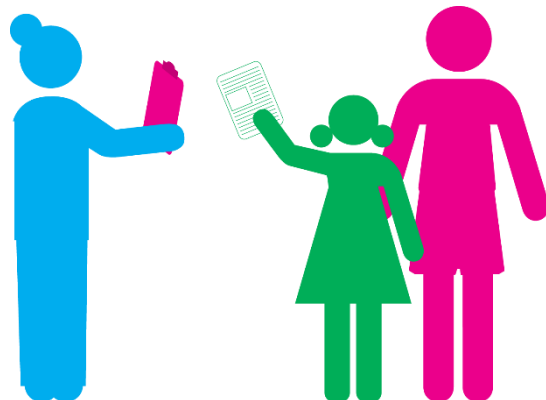
Application

An application for permission to engage in an activity listed above, accompanied by a copy of any printed material to be distributed, must be delivered to the park manager.

DCNR will grant or deny permission without unreasonable delay. A denial of permission will specify the grounds for denial. Any of the following will justify denial of permission:

- The desired area has already been booked for use.
- The activity might present a clear and present danger to public health or safety.
- The activity is might cause injury or damage to park resources.
- The activity is might interfere with a protected area's peace and tranquility, the use of the State park by other visitors, program or administrative activities, the operation of public use facilities, or the provision of services by state park concessionaires or contractors.

Permission may contain conditions.



CAMPING & OVERNIGHT FACILITIES

Placing a tent, shelter, lean-to, sleeping bag, bedding material, or mobile camping unit in an area without a valid camping permit for use of that area is prohibited.

Placing personal property in or otherwise using a cabin, yurt, walled tent, camping cottage, or other overnight facility without possession of a valid permit for use of that facility is prohibited.

PROPERTY LEFT IN A STATE PARK

Property that has been left in a state park for more than 24 hours (without written permission of DCNR), that impedes public access or navigation, or vehicles or other property parked illegally may be moved or removed by DCNR and placed in storage at the state park. The property may be subject to disposal.

FIRES

The following activities are prohibited:

- Starting or maintaining a fire except in a fireplace, grill, stove, or other facility designated by DCNR for campfires or except with written permission of DCNR.
- Leaving a fire unattended.
- Disposing hot charcoal anywhere except in a facility designated by DCNR for charcoal disposal.



WASTE

The following activities are prohibited:

- Depositing or dumping litter, trash, refuse, garbage, bottles, pollutants, or any other substance, liquid, or waste, including sewage, sink water, or bath water, except in receptacles or facilities provided by DCNR for this purpose.
- Disposing material that was not accumulated during use of a state park.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The following activities are prohibited except with written permission of DCNR:

- cutting, picking, digging, damaging, or removing, in whole or in part, a living or dead plant;
- damaging, defacing, cutting, or removing rocks, minerals, natural objects, or materials;
- planting anything;
- feeding wildlife;
- releasing an animal that was brought into a State park.

The following activities are allowed:

- Gathering edible fruits, nuts, berries, and fungi, in reasonable amounts, for personal consumption. This permission does not apply to wild plants protected by Pennsylvania law as threatened, endangered, rare, or vulnerable.
- Gathering dead and down wood for use within the state park for campfires.

MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are prohibited without written permission of DCNR:

- construction or excavation;
- moving, removing, damaging, or defacing a DCNR sign, structure, facility, or equipment;
- possessing or discharging a firecracker, explosive, torpedo, rocket, or other pyrotechnical material;
- using a chain saw;
- commercial activity;
- posting or displaying a sign or printed materials;
- soliciting funds;
- removing or disturbing an historical or archeological artifact, relic, or object;
- bringing an animal other than an allowed pet or horse; or
- storing or leaving food in a manner that is likely to attract wildlife.

The following are prohibited:

- Failing to comply with a condition of a permit issued by DCNR.
- Possessing, selling, or consuming an alcoholic beverage except at specially designated facilities operated or leased by DCNR.
- Causing or creating a noise which would likely annoy or disturb others.
- Obstructing or impeding persons or vehicles.
- Subjecting persons to unwanted physical contact or unwanted verbal behavior.
- Failing to fully cover with opaque clothing one's genitals or pubic area.
- Using drinking fountains, springs, lakes, or waterways for washing purposes.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Specific outdoor recreational activities are only allowed in designated areas.

Horses

- A horse is permitted only on the right side of a road open to motor vehicles or on a trail or area posted for horseback riding. At Presque Isle State Park, a horse is permitted only with written permission of DCNR.
- Hitching or confining a horse in a manner that may cause damage to a tree, shrub, improvement, or structure is prohibited.
- Droppings from hitched or confined horses must be disposed of outside the state park.

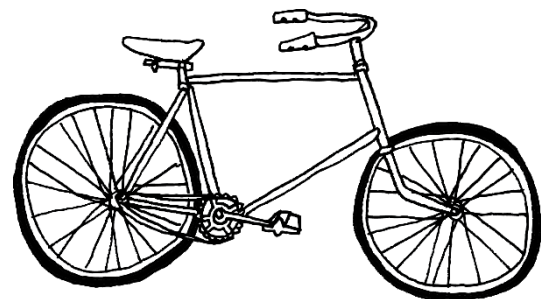
Mountain Bikes

- Mountain bikes are only allowed on mountain biking trails.

Swimming

The following are prohibited:

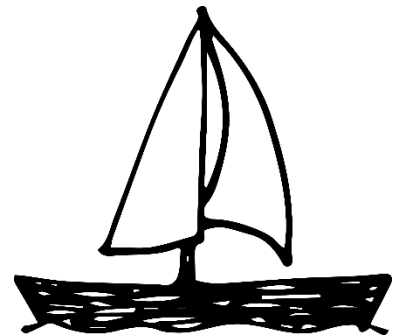
- swimming outside a designated swimming area;
- swimming outside of posted hours;
- use of underwater breathing apparatus or a snorkel;
- possessing or using glass or anything breakable;



- Wearing the following:
 - In swimming pools, cut-off pants, clothing that may damage the filtration system or pool surface, or clothing that may otherwise cause damage or endanger the facility or a visitor.
 - In swimming pools, clothing that is not leak-proof on an infant or on a child who is not toilet-trained.
 - In a designated swimming area, clothing that displays lifeguard lettering or insignia.
- The presence of a child under 10 years of age unless accompanied and supervised by a person at least 14 years of age. There may be no more than five children under the supervision of one person.
- Diving as follows in a designated swimming area:
 - running-entry diving.
 - diving from the shoulders of another person.
 - head-first diving from poolside where the water depth is 5 feet or less.
- Engaging in the following activities in unless permitted by posting or by an on-duty lifeguard:
 - Using or possessing a buoyant device. Personal flotation devices approved by the United States Coast Guard may be worn.
 - Engaging in sports activities including water polo, volleyball, disc throwing, and catch.

BOATING

- The use of inner tubes, body boards, surfboards, air mattresses, and other similar non-watercraft devices is permitted in creeks, streams, and rivers. Children 12 years of age and under must wear United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while engaged in this activity.
- The use of body boards and surfboards is permitted in bodies of water designated for boating. Persons must wear United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while engaged in this activity.
- At Presque Isle State Park, the use of body boards and surfboards is permitted only at locations where posting states that this activity is permitted. Personal flotation devices are not required.



The following activities are prohibited without written permission of DCNR:

- Operating watercraft on a body of water not designated for boating. The use of nonmotorized watercraft is permitted on creeks, streams, and rivers unless posted otherwise.
- Operating, using, or anchoring watercraft within 100 feet of either a designated swimming area or an area marked by buoys.
- Operating, towing, or using any of the following:
 - Watercraft propelled by air propellers.
 - The use of water skis is permitted only in lakes where motorboats with unlimited horsepower are permitted and in lakes where posting states that water skiing is permitted.
 - Parasails, kite skis, and other devices towed behind a boat and intended to lift off the surface of the water.
 - Unseaworthy watercraft.
 - Equipment or devices not constructed or sold primarily for transportation on water.
- Operating or using watercraft or a non-watercraft device in a manner that endangers a person or property.

Motorboats

These rules do not apply to boats used for purposes of State park administration, law enforcement, search and rescue, safety patrol, or concessionaire excursions. The following activities are prohibited without written permission of DCNR:

- Operating a boat powered by one or more internal combustion engines totaling more than the posted maximum horsepower.
- Operating a boat powered by an internal combustion engine in waters that are posted as being restricted to electric motor use.
- Operating personal watercraft unless the body of water is posted as being open to motorboats without a limit on horsepower.

Mooring, Anchoring, and Storing

The following activities are prohibited:

- Mooring watercraft at any location without possession of a valid watercraft mooring permit issued by DCNR for that location.
 - At Point State Park, watercraft may be moored along the river wall during the hours the park is open to the public. Watercraft may be moored along the river wall overnight only with permission of DCNR.
- Leaving watercraft in an area designated by DCNR for storage without possession of a valid storage permit issued by DCNR.
- Leaving unoccupied watercraft anywhere in a state park between sunset and 8 a.m., except in accordance with the above rules.

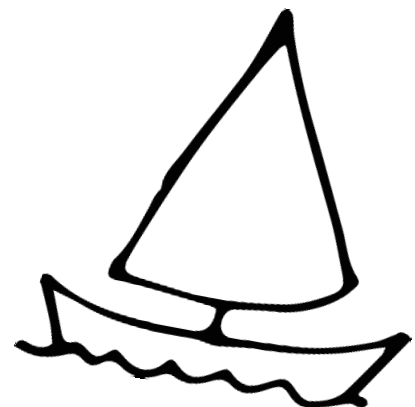
Launching

The following activities are prohibited:

- Launching or removing motorized watercraft at a location that is not designated by DCNR as a launching site, without written permission of DCNR.
- Launching watercraft without one of the following:
 - A valid watercraft launching or mooring permit issued by DCNR.
 - A valid registration number and validation decal, or a valid use permit, issued and displayed in accordance with Fish and Boat Commission regulations.

The only exceptions to these regulations are as follows:

- At Presque Isle State Park, unless registration or a use permit is required in accordance with Fish and Boat Commission regulations. If registration or a use permit is required, launching watercraft without complying with the regulations is prohibited.
- At Pymatuning State Park, if a valid launching permit has been issued for the watercraft by the State of Ohio.



WHITEWATER BOATING

The following rules apply to persons using watercraft at Ohiopyle State Park, Lehigh Gorge State Park, or McConnells Mill State Park. These requirements do not apply at Lehigh Gorge State Park when the flow rate of the Lehigh River is less than 250 cubic feet per second.

- Wear an appropriate-sized United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device, Type I, III, or V.
- Use one of the following types of watercraft:
 - Noninflatable watercraft that is designed for whitewater use. Noninflatable canoes and noninflatable kayaks must have sufficient flotation to ensure that they will float when they are completely full of water.
 - Inflatable watercraft that has multiple air chambers of a tough, durable construction intended for whitewater use, consists of a tough laminated material, and is of commercial grade. The multiple air chambers must be in the outside tube.
 - Other nonmotorized watercraft approved by DCNR.

The following are prohibited at Ohiopyle State Park, Lehigh Gorge State Park, and McConnells Mill State Park:

- Using motorized watercraft.
- Using watercraft in a manner that endangers a person or property.
- Using a non-watercraft device, such as an inner tube, body board, surfboard, or air mattress. These devices may be used at Lehigh Gorge State Park when the flow rate of the Lehigh River is less than 250 cubic feet per second. Children 12 years of age and under must wear a United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device when engaged in this activity.
- Possessing or using glass.

Ohiopyle State Park – Lower Youghiogheny River

The Lower Youghiogheny River the section of the Youghiogheny River between the base of Ohiopyle Falls and the northern most point of the river that lies within the State park. The following rules apply to persons using watercraft on the Lower Youghiogheny River:

- They must either be part of a guided tour provided by a State park-licensed concession or have a valid whitewater launch permit issued by DCNR. Permits may not be transferred, assigned, or altered. During periods when a launch area is not staffed, boaters must sign the sign-on sheet at the contact station in lieu of obtaining a permit.
- Launch and take-out of watercraft must occur only at areas designated by DCNR, except for the following:
 - Watercraft may be launched on tributaries entering the Youghiogheny River downstream from Ohiopyle Falls, with permission of DCNR.
 - Watercraft may be launched at Bruner's Run take-out area for the purpose of boating downstream.
- At river levels below 3 feet, inflatable watercraft must be at least 8 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 14 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.

- At river levels between 3 and 4 feet, inflatable watercraft must be at least 12 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 16 inches. Inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks are **not** permitted.
- At river levels 4 feet and above:
 - Inflatable watercraft must be at least 15 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 18 inches. Inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks are not permitted.
 - Watercraft rented from a boat rental business are not permitted.

Guided and unguided state park-licensed concession watercraft are not subject to the restrictions above.

With permission of DCNR, a person may use watercraft that does not meet the requirements if DCNR deems it safe for use. This permission will not be given for watercraft rented from a boat rental business, including a state park-licensed concession business.

Ohiopyle State Park – Middle Youghiogheny River

The Middle Youghiogheny River is the section of the Youghiogheny River between the Ramcat launch area and the Middle Youghiogheny take-out area upstream of Bike Trail Bridge in Ohiopyle Borough. The following rules apply to persons using watercraft on the Middle Youghiogheny River:

- Launch of watercraft must occur only at the Ramcat launch area, and take-out must occur only at the Middle Youghiogheny take-out area upstream of Bike Trail Bridge in Ohiopyle Borough.
- At river levels below 3 feet, inflatable watercraft must be at least 8 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 14 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.
- At river levels 3 feet and above, inflatable watercraft must be at least 12 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 16 inches. Inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks are **not** permitted.

Guided and unguided State park-licensed concession watercraft are not subject to the restrictions above.

With permission of DCNR, a person may use watercraft that does not meet the requirements if DCNR deems it safe for use. This permission will not be given for watercraft rented from a boat rental business, including a State park-licensed concession business.

Lehigh Gorge State Park

The following rules apply on the Lehigh River at Lehigh Gorge State Park:

- At flow rates from 250 – 1,000 cubic feet per second, inflatable watercraft must be at least 8 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 13 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.
- At flow rates above 1,000 – 5,000 cubic feet per second, inflatable watercraft must be at least 11 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 15 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.
- At flow rates above 5,000 cubic feet per second, inflatable watercraft must be at least 12-1/2 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 17 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.
- Launch and take-out of watercraft must occur only at launch areas designated by DCNR, except with written permission of DCNR.

- Guided and unguided watercraft trips provided by commercial outfitters are not permitted between the Francis E. Walter Dam and the White Haven launch area.
- Guided and unguided watercraft trips provided by commercial outfitters are not permitted between the White Haven launch area and the Rockport launch and take-out area during the opening weekend of annual trout season, as established by the Fish and Boat Commission, and the following weekend.

McConnells Mill State Park

- Inflatable watercraft used on Slippery Rock Creek at McConnells Mill State Park must be at least 8 feet long and have an outside tube diameter of at least 14 inches. This requirement does not apply to inflatable canoes and inflatable kayaks.

DRONE USAGE

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/rulesandregulations/dronesanduas/index.htm>

The bureau permits drone and other unmanned aerial systems (UAS) use at six designated flying sites within the following state parks:

- Beltzville State Park
- Benjamin Rush State Park
- Hillman State Park
- Lackawanna State Park
- Prompton State Park
- Tuscarora State Park

Drone and UAS operators need to contact the office of the park that they plan to visit to ensure compliance with all rules and regulations. Please be advised that the entire park at each of these locations is not open to UAS or drone usage. Only the designated flying site within each park is open to UAS use.

The use of drones or other UAS is restricted at all other Bureau of State park locations.

METAL DETECTING

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/rulesandregulations/metaldetecting/index.htm>

The reasonable use of metal detectors is permitted in quite a few state parks. However, metal detecting is not permitted where this activity would conflict with a facility in use, nor is it permitted within fenced areas of swimming pool complexes.

Metal detecting on beaches and in lake swimming areas will be permitted within a reasonable distance of shore from the Tuesday after Labor Day until the Saturday prior to Memorial Day, unless posted otherwise. During the summer season, metal detecting in beach and swimming areas will be at the discretion of the park manager based on his knowledge of the use and type of facility. Metal detecting in other underwater areas will be permitted within a reasonable distance of shore if it does not conflict with other activities or have potential for causing damage to the facility.

Many state park areas have the potential for the recovery of valuable historical objects. State park areas with this potential may have part or all of their area closed to metal detecting.

Who to Contact: Individuals who want to use a metal detector in a state park must receive prior approval from the specific park manager on-site at the park and report items which are found and will be removed from the park.

Fees: There is no fee charged for metal detecting in Pennsylvania State Parks.

Digging Tools: Shovels, spades, garden trowels, and other similar tools may not be used to dig into or turn over ground areas that are covered by turf, vegetation, shrubs, or trees. The only permissible digging tools are screwdrivers, ice picks, and other similar narrow pronged devices.

Finding Items: The finding of historical objects in any state park area should be handled by first contacting the park manager of the particular park. In addition, persons should consult the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission if they are seeking or find historical artifacts.

Individuals must report items which are found and will be removed from the park.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR POINT STATE PARK

The following provisions apply to Point State Park:

- Memorials may be erected with written permission of DCNR to honor those persons and events which symbolize the spirit of the American pioneer and the significance of frontier forts prior to the year 1800.
- Congregating or loitering on the Portal Arch Bridge is prohibited.
- Swimming, wading, or fishing in the reflecting pool or the fountain pool is prohibited.
- Use of roller skates, skateboards, scooters, bicycles, or other wheeled recreational equipment is prohibited, except where posted as being permitted or except with written permission of DCNR.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

The following provisions apply to Presque Isle State Park:

- A person who wants to enter the park when the park is closed must stop at the park ranger office and state his/her name, address, destination, reason for entering, and planned time of departure. Permission to enter the park may be granted if DCNR determines that good cause exists for entering the park. This provision does not apply to a park resident or tenant.
- Lending or transferring a night parking permit is prohibited and will result in cancellation of the permit.
- Seining for bait in designated swimming areas is prohibited.

