

DCR Regulations

Updated 10/24/14

Effective October 24, 2014, the Department of Conservation and Recreation implemented the latest version of 302 CMR 12.00: Parks and Recreation Rules. Some of the regulations are new or have changed and may affect your camping experience. Below are regulation highlights that are specific to Massachusetts state campgrounds. We encourage everyone to review the complete text of DCR regulations to ensure a pleasant stay. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/legal/3021200.pdf>

Regulation Highlights

- No person under the age of 18 may camp or stay at a DCR campsite or structure except when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian; or accompanied by an adult who has written permission from the minor's parent/guardian; or if part of an organized youth group under direct supervision.
- Youth groups utilizing group campsites shall consist of at least two adult counselors and an adult/youth ratio of not less than one to ten unless otherwise determined by the Department. Adult counselors must remain with the group at all times.
- Quiet hours are between 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., which includes the use of generators except for the purpose of operating a medical device.
- No structures, including swimming or wading pools, trampolines, horseshoe pits, household furniture and unnecessary lighting or any object that may create a public safety hazard may be placed on a campsite.
- Where pets are allowed, no more than four pets may be kept at a designated campsite and they must be on a tether or leash no greater than ten feet in length; owners must clean up after their pets; and any pet required by law to have a rabies vaccination must have proof at check-in.
- Alcohol is not permitted in DCR facilities.
- Campsite occupancy is limited to a maximum of four adults with no children, or two adults and the children under their care.
- No person may leave a child under the age of 15 unattended.
- Camping equipment is required at the time of registration; the site must be occupied the first night and may not be left unoccupied for a period in excess of 12 contiguous hours.
- No person may register for more than one campsite for the same period of time; acceptable government issued identification is required at the time of registration; and ID may be required for all campers over the age of fourteen.
- The primary occupant is responsible for the actions of all persons on that site; violations of MA General Laws and DCR rules and regulations by any occupant or

visitor shall be cause for eviction of all concerned parties. Campers who are evicted are not entitled to any refunds.

- Unnecessary noise shall be avoided; no person shall operate any audio device including radios, mp3 players, television, musical instrument, or noise-producing device such as a generator, in a manner or at such times to disturb other persons.
- Except in a designated group site, no more than two tents or one camping vehicle and one tent, may be placed on a DCR campsite, with the exception of rain tarps, tent flies or screen houses; no other structures shall be erected on campsites.
- Horses are not permitted into a campground or camping area unless such area is designated as allowing horse camping, except for law enforcement officials or other duly authorized official.
- Pets are not permitted in yurts or cabins or on those corresponding sites.
- Between Memorial Day and Labor Day no person or recreational camping vehicle may occupy any campground for more than 14 cumulative days, unless approved by the Department. Approval shall be granted for one to three days if newly arriving campers can be accommodated and the registered camper has complied with all rules and regulations. DCR may approve registration of a camping vehicle for more than 14 cumulative days between Memorial Day and Labor Day only if: an extension has been approved under 302 CMR 12.08 (31) or the campsite or camping structure is registered in the name of a camper who has not previously registered in the campground between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the camping equipment or recreational camping vehicle has not occupied a site within the campground within the previous 14 days.
- Camping in designated backcountry campsites is limited to two nights, except in the case of emergency or illness; all litter and waste must be removed.