



## SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

WELCOME—ENJOY YOUR VISIT. Please be considerate of those who will use the facilities in this state park after you. To help ensure your safety and pleasure, please observe state park rules and regulations.

- I. This is a summary of the official Pennsylvania Rules and Regulations pertaining to State Parks. The official text is found in its entirety at 17 Pa. Code Chapter 11. This summary is therefore not complete and does not reproduce or represent the full official Code text. We have included here a number of provisions that are of more general or immediate importance to state park visitors. The complete rules and regulations are posted at the park office and an official copy of the Pa. Code Pamphlet is available for inspection at any state park office.
- II. All day-use areas are open to the public between sunrise and sunset throughout the year, unless otherwise posted.
- III. In the event of hazardous conditions endangering life or property, a state park or facility may be closed to public use at the discretion of the Park Manager.
- IV. The laws, rules, and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission apply to fishing, hunting, and boating except where modification of such laws, rules and regulations is determined necessary by the Department for the use and protection of resources under its jurisdiction.

### V. GENERAL

- A. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted except with written permission of the Department.
- B. Trash, garbage, and all other litter shall be placed in containers provided for this purpose and are limited to litter accumulated during use of the state park.
- C. Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and fungi may only be gathered in reasonable amounts for personal or family consumption. Exceptions include native wild plants listed as threatened, endangered, rare or vulnerable. Gathering dead and down wood is permitted for use in a fireplace or grill in the state park.
- D. Open fires are permitted only in fireplaces, grills, stoves or other facilities designated by the Department for campfires. Disposal of hot charcoal from grills is permitted only in facilities designated by the Department. Leaving a fire unattended is prohibited.
- E. Soliciting for any purpose or posting of signs is not permitted. The distribution, sale, servicing, or rental of any supplies, equipment, material, or commodity is restricted to authorized concessions.
- F. Operators of licensed motor vehicles shall obey posted official traffic-control devices and use only roads and parking areas open to public traffic unless otherwise designated by the park manager. The operation of other motorized vehicles is not permitted on state park roads, lanes, trails, and areas unless otherwise designated. Excessive speed or noise and reckless, careless, or negligent operation are prohibited. Commercial traffic is allowed on state park roads only when authorized by the Department.
- G. Horseback riding is permitted on the right (side) berm of roads open to public vehicles and designated trails and areas. This activity is not permitted on camping or cabin area roads or picnic, swimming, or cooking areas.
- H. Use or discharge of an airgun, slingshot, or explosive is prohibited. Target shooting with such devices is prohibited, except in areas designated by the Department for this purpose and in accordance with posted requirements and restrictions.
- I. Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased and ready for use by licensed hunters only in authorized hunting areas and during seasons state parks are open to hunting or under special conditions which may be established by the Department.
- J. Wildlife shall not be hunted, pursued, molested, or intentionally disturbed except that hunting and trapping are permitted within authorized hunting areas during the established Pennsylvania Game Commission seasons. Groundhog hunting is prohibited. The training of dogs is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in authorized hunting areas.
- K. Outdoor recreational activity in state parks is restricted to locations where physical improvement or posting designates the appropriate purpose and use. Swimming is only permitted in designated swimming areas.
- L. Pets are permitted in state parks if they are on a leash not exceeding the posted maximum length or in a cage or crate. Pets must be attended and under physical control at all times. Pets are not permitted in swimming areas. Pets are prohibited in overnight areas unless that area is designated for pets by the Department.
- M. The use of an electric generator causing unreasonable or excessive noise and the use of a chainsaw are prohibited without a permit from the Department.
- N. Unorganized or organized instruction, exhibition, competition, demonstration, or special events require written application and approval from the Department.

## VI. SWIMMING AREAS

- A. Swimming is permitted between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (unless otherwise posted) from Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Certain areas may be available for open swimming during posted hours. Swimming at other than posted hours or outside of designated swimming areas is prohibited.
- B. Use of underwater breathing apparatus or a snorkel is prohibited. With permission of the Department, this equipment may be used by an emergency or rescue unit conducting a rescue operation or training or by a diver certified by an organization approved by the Department.
- C. Beach and pool areas are provided for swimming and sunbathing. For the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors, other activities may be prohibited.
- D. Possessing or using a glass or breakable container or utensil in a designated swimming area is prohibited.
- E. Only appropriate swimming attire is permitted in state park swimming pools. The following are prohibited: Cut-off pants and attire which may damage the filtration system or pool surface or may otherwise cause damage or endanger the facility or visitors, clothing that is not leak-proof on an infant or on a child who is not toilet-trained, and clothing that displays lifeguard lettering or insignia.
- F. All children under 10 years of age must be accompanied and supervised competently and effectively in state park swimming areas by a responsible person at least 14 years of age. One responsible person shall supervise no more than five children.

## STATE PARK WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS

1. The launching or mooring of watercraft on Department waters requires that the appropriate valid DCNR watercraft permit be properly displayed. However, a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission number and current certificate of watercraft registration permits daily launching only. Launching of trailered watercraft is permitted at designated launching areas only.
2. Storage of watercraft during the winter season may be permitted at approved locations for a fee. Contact the park office for information on facilities offered at specific parks.
3. (A) In state parks having a horsepower limitation of 20 or less, larger internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.  
(B) In state parks designated as electric motors only, internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.
4. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and U.S. Coast Guard regulations apply to boating on state park waters.
5. The following types of watercraft are PROHIBITED on state park waters including frozen water:
  - (A) Watercraft propelled by air propellers.
  - (B) Seaplanes. Seaplanes may be taxied at a slow minimum-height-swell speed in the waters of Presque Isle State Park for the purpose of access to and egress from the park.
  - (C) Non-seaworthy watercraft.
  - (D) Inflatable devices, except those that are seven feet in length and have more than one separate buoyancy chamber.
  - (E) Equipment which is not constructed for the primary purpose of transportation on the water.
6. (A) 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 shall wear United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while engaged in this activity.  
(B) The use of body boards and surfboards at Presque Isle State Park is permitted only at locations where posting states that this activity is permitted. Personal flotation devices are not required.
7. Swimming or diving from watercraft is not permitted.
8. Operation of watercraft is not permitted within 100 feet of swimming areas or within areas marked by buoys.
9. Requests for watercraft races, regattas, tournaments, and exhibitions held on state park waters require 30 days prior approval of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and must be submitted on Form PFBC 500 "Application for Permit-Special Activities."
10. The following are PROHIBITED:
  - a. Operation of a watercraft which endangers a person, watercraft, property, or unnecessarily interferes with the use of the water by other persons.
  - b. Operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
  - c. Overnight sleeping aboard watercraft except where authorized by the Department.

## VII. A COMPLETE SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS IS POSTED AT THE STATE PARK OFFICE AND AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE PA CODE PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Violation of state park rules and regulations could result in cancellation of a camping permit, removal from the state park, as well as criminal prosecution.