

Dispersed Camping



CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST

HEADQUARTERS

RHINELANDER, WI

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest offers a variety of dispersed camping opportunities. Whether you like to hike and pitch a tent or bring your recreational vehicle (RV) to camp off a Forest Service road, we have a place just right for you!



Dispersed camping is the type of recreational experience that is outside the confines of a developed campground setting. It's just you and the woods without latrines, fire rings, or any other type of amenities you'd find in a campground. There are still some rules that need to be followed to preserve places for others to enjoy.

- Please follow Leave No Trace practices to make sure no evidence of your visit remains. This means packing out all garbage and supplies you brought with you— leave the site cleaner than when you found it. Where toilets are not provided, bury and cover waste in a shallow trench at least 200 feet away from any water.
- Be aware of fire restrictions that apply to campfires outside of developed campsites. In dry conditions, campfires may be banned in the general forest, but still allowed in campgrounds. Never leave a campfire unattended. Be sure your fire is out before you leave the campsite.
- Check the most up to date Motorized Vehicle User Map (MVUM) to make sure the Forest Service road you wish to drive on is open to motorized vehicles. Please contact your local Forest Service office to obtain the latest copy of the MVUM map.
- Motor vehicles may be parked up to 30 feet from the edge of the road surface when it is safe to do so without causing damage to National Forest resources or facilities, unless prohibited by state law, a traffic sign, or special closure order.
- Parking motor vehicles or trailers is not allowed where it will impede traffic, harm vegetation, or impact soils. For example, driving and parking in open fields beyond the shoulder of a road right-of-way.
- Parking in front of gates is prohibited.
- RV or vehicle campers may utilize shoulder parking pull off areas or closed roads with a berm to park and camp.
- Visitors who are tent camping should be a minimum of 150 feet from the edge any trail or Forest Service road. Camp sites must be 200 feet away from any water or lakeshore.
- You may not construct any “improvements” at your camp. Examples of prohibited improvements include digging ditches, cutting of live trees or other vegetation, or construction of permanent fire rings. Disperse all signs of a campfire once it is extinguished, if you use one, or use a camp stove.
- You may not leave your camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours.
- Occupancy is limited to 21 days at the same site within a 30 day period.
- Be considerate of other campers or users that may be in the area. Hold down the noise please.
- Use only dead and downed material for firewood.
- Do not carve, chop, cut, peel bark, install nails or screws, or do any other damage to live trees.
- There may be a fee at some dispersed sites. Please check for any signs with information at your site.
- Use of wheeled carts or any mechanized or motorized equipment is prohibited in all designated wilderness areas.
- Please sign in at any registration stations. In the event of an emergency, knowing that individuals are in the area helps Forest Service personnel to evacuate or locate individuals in the event of a personal, fire, or weather related emergency situation. It is a safe practice to always let someone know where you are and a return date.

Bats: A friend in need



While you're out camping, you may have seen bats in the early evening skimming over lakes and maybe thought, "Scary!" Even scarier though would be the number of mosquitoes biting you if those bats weren't there! A bat could eat over 10 million insects over its lifetime. Bats are definitely a campers friend. Sadly, bats in the US are threatened with a disease, white nose syndrome, that attacks them as they hibernate. The disease is so deadly that some of our native bats could be totally wiped out. The Forest Service is helping the bats by monitoring their numbers using devices mounted on trucks, and by identifying where they roost. You can help bats by installing bat houses and learning to tolerate and even appreciate bats whenever you see them. If you would like to learn more on white nose syndrome, go to: www.whitenosesyndrome.org.



Smokey says...

Check local fire restrictions. Campfires may be restricted or banned, so always bring a camp stove to use. Be sure your fire is completely out before you leave the campsite.

Be a Camper that "Leaves No Trace" Leave No Trace Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
5. Respect wildlife.
6. Leave what you find.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Need more information? Go to: www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf on the web or contact:

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisors Office
500 Hanson Lake Road
Rhineland, WI 54501
(715) 362-1300

Lakewood/Laona Ranger District
15085 State Rd 32
Lakewood, WI 54138
(715) 276-6333

4978 Hwy 8 W
Laona, WI 54541
(715) 674-4481

Park Falls/Medford Ranger District
1170 4th Ave S.
Park Falls, WI 54552
(715) 762-2461

850 N. 8th, Hwy 13
Medford, WI 54451
(715) 748-4875

Eagle River/Florence Ranger District
1247 East Wall Street
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-2827

5638 Forestry Drive
Florence, WI 54121
(715) 528-4464

Washburn Ranger District
113 E Bayfield St.
P.O. Box 578
Washburn, WI 54891
(715) 373-2667

Great Divide Ranger District
10650 Nyman Ave
P.O. Box 896
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 634-4821

N22223 Hwy 13
Glidden, WI 54527
(715) 264-2511



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