



## Campground Hosts Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Will I need to have a background check? Why?**

**A:** Yes. In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 79A.05.030.10 establishing requirements for a criminal background check for volunteers who have unsupervised access to children, developmentally disabled persons or vulnerable adults, or who will be responsible for collecting or disbursing cash or processing credit/debit card transactions. As a volunteer, you will be acting as an agent of Washington State Parks. Campground hosts and volunteers are often in positions as described above.

### **Q: When will I know if I have been accepted to host?**

**A:** Once you have cleared your background check, you will receive an e-mail notification. If your application has not cleared, you will be notified by mail.

### **Q: How do I find a hosting assignment?**

**A:** You can find a [Camp Host Opportunities List](#) on the Washington State Parks Volunteer Program webpage, which shows the current vacancies for each park. You are welcome and encouraged to contact the parks directly to inquire about hosting vacancies. This gives you the chance to introduce yourself, discuss your skills and experience and learn more about the needs of the park. Each park plans their host calendar differently. Some may have everyone lined up a year in advance, while others wait to plan theirs.

### **Q: How long can I host in one park?**

**A:** Host positions are approximately a 30-day commitment. Longer assignments of up to 90 days are possible if the host and park staff both agree. Region Manager approval is required for stays over 90 days.

### **Q: Why can't I host for 12 continuous months in one park?**

- A:**
1. There are rules against establishing residency in state parks.
  2. We want to encourage volunteers to become familiar with other state parks.
  3. We want to encourage State Parks staff to become familiar with new hosts.
  4. We want the experience to be fun and enjoyable and not just a job.

**Q: What are my duties?**

**A:** Duties vary from park to park and from season to season. Generally, hosts answer questions and provide information to visitors, assist with reservations (if offered at park), and provide light maintenance such as litter pick-up and cleaning campsites. It is difficult to list specific duties because it depends on the park's needs at the time you host. Discuss duties with park staff when you call to arrange your assignment. When you arrive at your host assignment, your park supervisor will confirm the details of the required duties.

**Q: Do I have to clean toilets?**

**A:** No. Hosts do not clean restrooms. This is the responsibility of park staff. However, you may be asked to monitor the cleanliness of restrooms and stock paper products when needed.

**Q: What will my hours be?**

**A:** This will vary from park to park. Your service commitment is to work 28 hours per week. You will not be asked to perform host work for more than 40 hours per week. You may have some maintenance duties that only last a couple of hours a day, but you will probably be available and answering questions and providing information to the public throughout the day and into the evening. Please record all of these hours on your timesheet.

**Q: Do I get to have days off?**

**A:** Yes. Days off will usually be during the week and will vary with the seasons, the number of hosts assigned at the park and staff's days off. Staff will try to arrange your schedule whenever possible for you to take two days off in a row. Your personal time is important, and staff encourages you to take a real break and leave the park to visit the local sites, see a movie, or just get away and relax. Other considerations will be made to accommodate your personal schedule and any other commitments you have arranged prior to your hosting assignment.

**Q: Do I have to fill out a timesheet?**

**A:** Yes. All volunteer hosts are required to complete and submit a timesheet at the end of each month. It is very important to report your hours because we submit our volunteer service hours to the Department of Labor and Industries (LNI) in order to pay LNI insurance on all of our volunteers. We also collect and report on volunteer service hours to the Legislature and Governor's Office, and hours are sometimes used when staff are applying for grants.

**Q: Do volunteers get paid?**

**A:** No. Washington State Parks does not pay a stipend to volunteers. Please note there may be an occasion for you to be reimbursed for your expenses. For example, if you host at our San Juan Island parks, you may be reimbursed for your ferry fees. Ask the park manager about this ahead of your assignment.

**Q: Will I have full hook-ups?**

**A:** Not in all parks. You will be provided full hook-ups (water, sewer, electricity) whenever possible. However, there are a few parks where sewer is not possible at this time. Water and electricity are available at all host sites, but you may have to travel to a dump station in or near the park to clean holding tanks. A few parks have telephone and cable or satellite TV hook-ups. You can ask park staff when you call to schedule your assignment.

**Q: Is there a recruitment time?**

**A:** We recruit year-round for hosts and volunteers. Please let us know if you move or change your telephone number so we can keep in touch with you.

**Q: I have a disability. Can I still volunteer?**

**A:** Yes. Please let staff know of any disabilities before your assignment so they can find the right place for you.

**Q: I travel with a pet. Are they welcome?**

**A:** Yes. We welcome pets as long as you pick up after them and keep them under physical control at all times. Parks also have a leash law, so your pet needs to be leashed.

**Q: Do the park rules apply to me?**

**A:** Yes.