



Marriage Permits

Mount Rainier National Park's inspiring vistas and natural settings are frequently used for weddings. All those who intend to marry inside the park must obtain a Special Use Permit to hold the wedding in the park. Because the park is a natural area, extravagant ceremonies and arrangements do not lend themselves to the park setting. Most ceremonies in the park are brief and simple.

The park can be very busy on summer weekends. Weekdays are generally less busy and can be an ideal time to hold a wedding in the park. In some areas of the park, weddings are not permitted on the weekends. In other

areas, weekend weddings must be conducted prior to 10:30 a.m. or after 2:30 p.m. to avoid peak visitor periods. Mount Rainier weather is unpredictable and at Paradise and Sunrise snow often remains on the ground through early July. July and August offer the best chance of fair weather, although rain is possible any time. Consider holding your wedding at lower elevation areas before July and after October. There is no outdoor area in the park with overhead covering.

There is no minister in the park to perform wedding ceremonies. Arrangements for a minister or judge must be made by the wedding party.

Permit Fees

A wedding permit application must be submitted with a check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 made payable to the National Park Service to cover non-refundable application costs.

All costs of evaluating the request will be billed to the applicant, whether a permit is issued or not. In compliance with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, the applicant must submit his/her social security number or Federal tax ID number when completing the application for permit.

Application Process

Complete an Application for Special Use Permit and submit it, along with the \$60.00 fee, to the Mount Rainier National Park Permit Office. Allow at least 4 business days for processing.

Your request will be evaluated based on the information in your application. Applicants should attach maps, diagrams, and other information that might assist park staff in evaluating the application.

Mail the completed application and \$60.00 application fee to:

Permit Coordinator
Mount Rainier National Park
55210 238th Avenue East
Ashford, WA 98304

For more information, call (360) 569-2211, x6004.

Restrictions & Conditions

A Special Use Permit does not allow the permittee to restrict park visitors from any location. Normal visitor use patterns will not be interrupted for permit holders. Permit activities may not occur simultaneously with other permitted activities or unduly conflict with scheduled public activities.

Activities that may damage, significantly impact or alter park resources are prohibited. The following are also prohibited: 1) altering, damaging or removing vegetation, 2) vehicle use off established roads and parking areas, 3) use of insecticides, herbicides and pesticides, 4) loud noises (60 decibels or higher) between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., 5) use of fragile vegetation areas, 6) flying aircraft below FAA recommended minimum altitude (usually 2,000 feet) or landing of aircraft, 7) writing on or discoloring any natural feature or structure.

Permit activities may be restricted based on weather or seasonal conditions (fire danger, standing water after rain, nesting season, etc.). Additional closures, use limits and/or restricted activities are listed in the Superintendent's Compendium. Restrictions and Conditions will be enumerated in the permit and will generally include the following:

- Groups must remain on paved areas and designated trails at all times to prevent damage to the fragile sub-alpine meadows and areas of rehabilitation.
- It is the responsibility of the wedding party to survey the area after the ceremony to ensure that all litter and debris is removed.
- The throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, etc. is not permitted.
- Erecting tents or awnings in roadway turnouts or parking areas, or on trails is not permitted. Also there is no area which could accommodate chairs set up for use

Restrictions & Conditions Continued

by wedding guests.

- Signs are not permitted on roadways or any other location. You may leave messages for guests at Ranger Stations or Visitor Center information desks.
- Ceremonies cannot impede the activities of other park visitors. Outdoor areas will not be closed off during ceremonies. There is no means by which parking or other space needs can be reserved for wedding participants and guests.
- Modest decorations are permitted, keeping in mind that the park is a natural area.
- Alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park as long as the group is abiding by Washington State Law – no serving to minors, no open containers in vehicles, any disruptive behavior, etc.

- An approved permit will allow all members attending your event/ceremony to enter into Mount Rainier National Park free of charge during the times specified on the permit. However, each vehicle must have a copy of the permit, in hand, to show the entrance station personnel in order to have the entrance fee waived. Persons attending your event/ceremony will only have this entrance fee waived if they are arriving within the authorized time frame listed on the permit. If they choose to come earlier they will be charged the entrance fee.
- The Special Use Permit must be in the possession of the wedding party at the time of the ceremony and area rangers may request to review it.

Recommended Sites

On the southwest side of Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Cougar Rock Amphitheater.

Cougar Rock Amphitheater
(available June - September)

Has some seating for 50-100 people; handicapped accessible. Parking limited to 30 vehicles at the picnic area located 1/8 to 1/4 mile from the amphitheater. Privacy is rated as good. Note: this is a geologic hazard zone. Warning signs are posted.

On the east side of Mount Rainier National Park, consider the Ohanapecosh Amphitheater and the White River Amphitheater.

Ohanapecosh Amphitheater
(available June - September)

Available on weekdays only; seating for 100-200 people on timber benches; handicapped accessible; 150 foot paved access trail; parking limited to 30 vehicles at the Ranger station 1/4 mile away.

White River Amphitheater

(available mid June - mid September)

Available on weekdays only; seating 30-50 people on log benches; not handicapped accessible; next to campground loop road; view of Mount Rainier in good weather; parking limited to 15 vehicles at the trailhead/picnic area parking lot 1/4 mile away. Note: This area is in a geologic hazard zone. Warning signs are posted.