

Governing Rules for Science Activities

Acadia National Park
Maine

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Acadia National Park has been a magnet for scientists and naturalists for well over a century due to its distinctive geology, varied flora and fauna, and a richly diverse cultural history. With your impending visit, you are continuing this long tradition of natural and cultural study at New England's only national park. In order to protect park resources for future generations of visitors, educators, and students, we are requiring all education groups conducting activities in the park to adhere to the following rules. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Rules

1. Fieldwork is restricted to observational study only (non-destructive sampling, compass and map work, direct counts, etc.).
2. Excavating, digging, disturbing, or collecting geological materials (including soils), plants (including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit), vertebrate, invertebrate, paleontological, or archeological specimens is prohibited. Use of rock hammers for geological field study is not permitted. In certain limited circumstances, these activities may be approved, but a National Park Service collecting permit is required. For more information about procedures for obtaining a permit, contact the chief of resource management at 207-288-8720 at least 45 days in advance of your planned visit.
3. Use of flagging or other marking devices is prohibited and you may not leave any personal equipment unattended.
4. All locations where fieldwork is conducted must be returned to the conditions in which they were found before the start of your educational activities.
5. Group sizes for educational field trips are recommended at a maximum of 20 people in any one location at any one time. Larger groups should contact the park education coordinator at 207-288-8822 for suggested locations and activities.
6. Your class must make reasonable efforts to follow Leave No Trace outdoor ethics principles during all field activities to minimize impacts on park resources or experiences of other park visitors. Prior to visiting the park, all instructors must read the enclosed one-page summary (pdf) of Leave No Trace principles and discuss with their class how to reduce their impacts by practicing Leave No Trace techniques.
7. The National Park Service strongly recommends that the group have basic first aid items and communications (cell phones) with them while working in the park.

Insurance

Proof of insurance issued by a U.S. company must accompany the application. The insurance certificate must identify the production company by name and business address; if the permittee uses a different name than listed on insurance policy, the relationship between insured company and permittee's company must be identified. The United States Government will be named as an additional insured on the insurance certificate. If further specificity is needed, the U.S. Department of Interior, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME, 04609, should be used.

Generally the minimum acceptable amount of liability insurance is \$1 million for each occurrence. High-risk activities or activities that may have the potential for resource impact require higher liability amounts. Smaller, low-risk projects or still photography may be eligible for a reduction to \$500,000. Contact the park for details. A request for a permit may be denied if there is no proof of adequate insurance. Personal or homeowners liability is not acceptable. The certificate should be generated by the insurance company. Hand-written certificate holder information is unacceptable. We will accept a faxed copy of the certificate until your insurance company can mail us the original.

Bond

A refundable damage bond, drawn as a separate payment, may be required for those projects that have a high potential for resource damage or potential for site restoration. The bond amount is determined by estimating the cost of monitoring and site restoration should you fail to adequately care for or complete clean-up of the site. This amount will be specified in the permit. The permittee is responsible for removal of equipment, props, and trash, and restoration of the site to original condition or in a condition satisfactory to the National Park Service. If this is not done, all or part of the damage bond will be retained to offset clean-up/recovery expenses. If it is not needed, the bond will be released when the on-site National Park Service representative signs off that site restoration is complete and all site-use charges have been paid. If a surplus remains after the costs have been reimbursed, the surplus is returned to the permittee. If the bond does not cover all the costs, the permittee will be billed for the difference.

After approval

After the approval of an application, and before the activity begins, the permittee should meet with the SUP coordinator to accomplish the following:

- review the final terms/conditions, scheduling, and any special instructions pertaining to the respective project
- provide an original certificate of insurance, and if required, a bond
- pay estimated costs, if required
- sign and obtain a copy of the special use permit

IMPORTANT: Any activities not specified in the permit will not be allowed. No activities on National Park Service property may begin until the permit has been approved by the park and agreed to by the permittee. All permits include the requirement that the site be cleaned and restored at the end of your use. Normal visitor use patterns should not be interrupted for longer than five minutes, and only as specified in the approved permit.

Audio and lighting restrictions apply to prevent disruption of visitor activities and/or disturb visitors. Large reflectors, silks, camera track, jibs, cranes, generators, large props, crowd scenes, foggers, and oversized vehicles are discouraged and are only authorized on a case-by-case basis, dependent on location, time of year, time of day, and other mitigating factors.

Park Entrance Fees

Commercial photographers and their crew who obtain a filming permit from the National Park Service are recognized as not being in the park for recreational purposes for the duration and purposes of that permit, and as such, are exempted from paying entrance fees. All vehicles entering the park must show a copy of the approved film permit at entrance stations.

Cancellations

A minimum cancellation fee of \$100 per scheduled monitor will be charged to the permittee if the SUP coordinator is not notified within 48 hours. In addition, you are responsible for all National Park Service costs up to the time of cancellation. If the cancellation is weather related, we will attempt to make accommodations. Administrative costs are mandatory and non-refundable. Cost of overtime and site clean-up are additional and will be billed as they occur.

Denial of Permit

Filming permits may be denied for any of the following reasons:

- Resource damage - If it is determined by the superintendent or his/her designee that the filming activity represents a threat to the resource, including wildlife.
- Supervisory requirements - If supervisory requirements for the proposed filming project will place unreasonable burdens on staff capacity, irrespective of the permittee's willingness to pay supervisory costs.
- Disruption of visitor activities - If the proposed filming would conflict with the visitors' normal use of the park.
- Prohibited or restricted activities - Permits will not be issued that would allow filmmakers to enter areas closed to the general visiting public, or that would allow activities not permitted to the visitor except for cooperative activities as an agent of the National Park Service.

Monitoring

For filming activities that are perceived to interfere with visitor use, or further congest highly visited areas, or have the potential to impact park resources without proper supervision and care, at least one employee of the National Park Service will be assigned to the film crew. Degree of monitoring is based on crew size, equipment, props, scope of project, location(s), time of day, and time of year.

- When a project involves substantial numbers of people and equipment, or if it involves a location that is environmentally sensitive or heavily visited, supervision will be on-site and continual.
- A ranger or representative may spot-check during the filming to assure compliance when the operations involve only a few people or minimal amounts of equipment, or take place in areas where there is little, if any, possibility of resource impact, inconvenience to visitors, or violation of permit conditions.
- The superintendent may bring in other employees to assist in those instances when the scope of the project exceeds the park's ability to properly manage the activity. The resulting staff costs will be recovered from the permittee.
- Before initiating any location set-ups or dispersal of equipment, a National Park Service representative **MUST** be on site. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the revocation of the permit.

Revocation

As noted in permit conditions, non-compliance with any of the permit conditions could result in revocation of the permit.

Costs

The National Park Service is required to recover all costs associated with permits for filming and photography. All administrative costs involving permit application and processing are nonrefundable and will be charged to the permittee. The park may require that charges be paid before work can begin on National Park Service property. Any additional costs will be posted as they occur. Charges must be paid within 14 days of the invoicing.
Note: Because costs are based on the services provided, the National Park Service does not differentiate between profit and nonprofit documentary projects. By law the National Park Service may not waive recovery of costs for projects that are produced to promote an industry, influence Congressional initiatives, or influence the outcomes of elections.

Permittee will be billed for monitoring, scouting, conferencing, and any other personnel services provided for filming activities according to the cost recovery schedule:

Hourly rate = \$60/hour for 2-hour minimum
Cancellation = \$100 minimum (see above)
Location Fees

Costs continued

Public Law 106-206 (P.L. 106-206), codified at 16 U.S.C. 460l-6d, instructs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to charge a location fee for all commercial filming and still photography permits. The location fee is in addition to cost recovery charges that are currently being collected.

Commercial filming is defined as digital or film recording of a visual image or sound recording by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience, such as for a documentary, television, or feature film; advertisement; or similar project. Under P.L. 106-206 all commercial filming requires a permit and is subject to a location fee and cost recovery.

All commercial filming permits and still photography permits are statutorily subject to cost recovery and a location fee, neither of which may be waived. The location fee is determined by the type of activity (commercial filming versus still photography) and by the number of permitted days and the number of people on park lands associated with the permitted activity.

Location Fee Schedule:

Motion Pictures/Videos

1-2 people camera and tripod only	zero
1-10 people	\$150/day
11-30 people	\$250/day
31-49 people	\$500/day
More than 50 people	\$750/day

Commercial Still Photography

1-10 people	\$50/day
11-30 people	\$150/day
More than 30 people	\$250/day

Conditions

Special conditions and restrictions will be noted on the permit and we will specify the number of people and the exact types of equipment allowed. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply to the operation of vehicles and equipment. The monitor on duty will not allow equipment, vehicles, and activities not specifically stated in the permit. No posting of signs is allowed without the specific approval of the SUP coordinator.

Aircraft

Use of aircraft, helicopters, or gliders is strictly regulated in the park. Wildlife nesting habitat, expectation of solitude in the backcountry areas, and safety are our primary consideration with regard to overflight activities. Therefore, aerial filming is rarely allowed. Parachuting is prohibited.

Contact Information

For more information about filming and photography permits, contact the Special use Permit Coordinator at 207-288-8793.