



Assateague Island National Seashore News Release

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Assateague Island National Seashore Proposes Entrance, Recreation and Camping Fee Increase

BERLIN, MD – Assateague Island National Seashore is asking the public for their opinions regarding a potential increase in entrance, kayak and camping fees in 2015. The National Park Service will provide a 30 day comment period available today through January 12, 2015.

The current park fees have been in place since 2008. The proposed entrance fees, kayak fee and camping fees are as follows:

Annual Pass		Per Vehicle		Per Person		Motorcycle		Kayak	
current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed
\$30	\$40	\$15	\$20	\$3	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$10/pers	\$25/pers
Front-country Camping April 15- Oct 15		Front-country Camping Off Season		Back-Country Camping		Horse Camping		Group Camping	
current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed	current	proposed
\$25/night	\$30/night	\$20/night	\$30/night	\$6/pers	\$10/pers	\$30/night	\$50/night	\$40/night	\$50/night

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Senior, Access or Military Pass holders. These passes may be obtained at the Park.

“We are committed to keeping the park affordable but we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” said Assateague Island National Seashore Superintendent Debbie Darden. “The revenue generated from recreational user fees fund projects that improve facilities, park infrastructure and provide for enhanced visitor services.”

In the past, camping and entrance fees have been used to provide lifeguard services in MD and VA, campground improvements, provide shade and weather structures near public beaches, improve ADA access, build a new visitor contact station on the island, and remove invasive plants. Additional revenue from increased fees may help Assateague Island National Seashore complete projects such as improve and

upgrade water lines, improve ADA access to the ocean and bay shorelines and facilities, and construct additional bike lanes.

Assateague Island National Seashore is a strong economic engine for the surrounding area. In 2012, more than 2,154,859 park visitors contributed \$86,309,300 to the local economy and supported 1,087 jobs related to tourism.

Following the public comment period feedback will determine how, or if, a fee increase would be implemented. Please send comments via email to: ASIS_Superintendent@nps.gov or by mail to:

Superintendent Deborah Darden
Assateague Island National Seashore
ATTN: Proposed 2015 Fee Increase
7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811

Those wishing to comment while visiting the island can also stop in either the Assateague Island Visitor Center, MD or Toms Cove Visitor Center, VA and complete a comment card.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.