Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Proposed Fee Increases at Cedar Breaks National Monument

Entrance Fee FAQs

What are the proposed entrance fees?

The entrance fee rate would change from $4 per person, age 16-years and older, to $7 per person. This pass is valid for seven days.

Cedar Breaks National Monument's annual pass would increase from $20 to $30. This pass admits the pass holder and up to three adults to the park and is valid for one year from the date of purchase.

All Interagency Passes available for admission to federal fee areas (including all National Park units) will remain at the current rates: Annual ($80), Senior ($10), Access ($0), and Military ($0).

Why is Cedar Breaks proposing to raise the entrance fee?

This fee increase proposal is part of a larger National Park Service initiative to standardize fees of similar parks across the country. Cedar Breaks National Monument was classified with parks of comparable size and visitation and given a corresponding fee schedule. Cedar Breaks' current fees have been in place since 2003, when the rate went from $3 to $4 per person.

I already pay taxes, why do I have to pay an entrance fee to begin with?

According to http://www.whitehouse.gov/2013-taxreceipt, a tool provided online by the White House which allows you to see exactly where your tax dollars go, Water and Land Management organizations of the federal government received 0.72% of income taxes paid to the federal government in 2013. The National Park Service shares this small amount with several departments and agencies. As such, for every $1,000 a visitor has paid in taxes in 2013, the National Park Service receives only a portion of $7.20. A quick Google search shows that private web sites calculate that the average person gives between $2.50 and $5.00 to the National Park Service in taxes paid. Regardless of whether it is $2.50 or $7.20, it's less than the price of the average movie ticket ($8.38 in 2013 per USA Today) and not nearly enough to operate a park that accommodates over 550,000 visitors each year.

How are entrance fees calculated?

The NPS fee structure is a tiered approach that classifies Cedar Breaks National Monument with parks of comparable size and visitation. The NPS analysis of fees is based on relevant academic

studies, private and public sector benchmarks, and existing NPS data, and seeks to provide fair, equitable and consistent fees to the public across the NPS system. Cedar Breaks is a part of Group 1, which generally includes smaller parks, monuments, historic sites, and recreation areas.

What do the current fees pay for?

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005 authorized 100% of the revenue generated by charging fees to be returned to the NPS. As a smaller park within the NPS system, Cedar Breaks retains 100% of its collected fees within the park. By law, these funds can only be used to help cover costs that are directly related to providing visitor services such as educational ranger-led programs and facilities such as campgrounds. With the exception of the costs related to collecting fees, fee revenue cannot be used to fund any recurring operational costs or fund permanent employee salaries.

Our current entrance fee revenue has assisted Cedar Breaks National Monument in providing the highest possible visitor experience. Recent projects funded with park fee revenue include the addition of showers and other improvements in the campground, trail improvements and maintenance, habitat restoration, and building a new ADA accessible trail from the Visitor Center area to Sunset View Overlook.

How will the new fee revenues be used?

Future revenues from the proposed fee increases will be used to support and enhance other visitor services including maintenance of park facilities, additional upgrades to the campground, a new children's outdoor classroom/playscape, and picnic area improvements including a new covered picnic pavilion and restroom.

Campground Fees FAQs

What is the proposed campground fee increase?

Cedar Breaks is proposing to raise the campground rate from $14 to $22 per night. Interagency Senior and Access pass holders receive a 50% discount on their stay in the campground.

Why is the park proposing to raise campground fees?

The current fee has been in place since 2005. Since that time, the costs associated with operating and maintaining the campground have not kept pace with inflation.

In addition, a recent survey indicates that Cedar Breaks is currently charging less than other campgrounds with similar amenities in the surrounding area and in other national parks. Even with the proposed increase, camping in Cedar Breaks would remain one of the least expensive and greatest experiences that visitors to our area can enjoy.

What do the current campground fees pay for?

The current campground fees cover day-to-day maintenance costs, infrastructure costs (e.g., water and wastewater systems), and utilities. Management fees charged by the recreation.gov reservation system are also covered.

How will the additional campground fee revenues be used?

Besides covering operational costs, the additional income would allow for further campground improvements such as a campground restroom addition with more toilet and shower stalls, improved RV and tent pads, and an expanded recycling program.

How do this amenity fee compare to other national park sites?

There are no parks in the immediate area that have a similar type of amenity fee. Arches National Park charges an amenity fee ($10) for its Fiery Furnace guided hike. The primary reason for offering this ranger-led hike is to ensure the safety of visitors on a primitive trail in a remote area.