



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Congaree National Park
100 National Park Road
Hopkins, South Carolina 29061



How a Commercial Use Authorization works

Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permits, formerly known as Incidental Business Permits (IBPs), are issued by National Park Superintendents to permit certain commercial activities in National Park Service areas, including Congaree National Park. Permits are required of all for-profit operators (including educational institutions) who provide any and all goods, services, and activities to people at least in part, inside the park, and use park resources. Recognized nonprofits are exempted from this requirement, so long as they do not derive compensation, monetary gain, benefit or profit from these regulated activities.

The commercial aspects of the services, except for the service itself, must occur outside of the park. This includes marketing, planning, advertising, use or construction of temporary or permanent structures, the negotiation of compensation with the customer, or the solicitation or receipt of money or other compensation.

Each CUA is issued for a period of one year. The effective date of the permit coincides with the Park's fiscal year (FY). Each fiscal year starts October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year. For example, permits issued for FY 2008 are effective from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

To obtain a CUA, commercial operators must complete an Application, provide evidence of required insurance, and submit an annual processing/application fee of \$200.

The application should indicate which authorized activities are proposed within the park. You may list as many activities as you intend to operate under your permit. Special Conditions may be attached to your permit for each activity selected. These conditions will further define your requirements for operating in each of these areas (such as no campfires in the backcountry).

Within sixty days after the end of each fiscal year, the CUA holder is required to submit accurate financial data (if applicable) concerning operations within the Park (a Financial Report). Additionally, the CUA holder is required to submit accurate records of activities within the park, based on each and every trip conducted within park boundaries (an Activity Summary).

Liability insurance is required for all CUA applications to be considered. All CUA holders, including educational institutions and non-profit organizations, are required to carry liability insurance that specifically lists the National Park Service as an "additional insured." A Certificate of Insurance must be received by Congaree National Park before the Permit is issued. The specific insurance requirements are attached to the application.