



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
143 S. 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Standard Operating Procedures

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMD)

This SOP covers the use of Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMD's) such as the Segway device and other similar brands throughout the park, pending a national NPS policy.

At this time, Segways and other brands of EPAMD'S are considered motor vehicles as defined under 36 C.F.R. § 1.4. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.5(a), 4.10(a) the **Park will not allow the recreational** use of Segways and other EPAMD'S within the park including sidewalks, lawns and buildings. Use by NPS or City of Philadelphia emergency or law enforcement personnel is permitted.

However, **disabled visitors are permitted to use Segways or other EPAMD'S** in the park on sidewalks, paths and on the ground floor (or floors reached by an elevator) of park buildings when such devices are used for the sole purpose of mobility assistance. Visitors who do not have substantial mobility limitations, as defined below, are not allowed to use Segways or EPAMD's in the park. Visitors who are unable to go upstairs may use our photo albums.

The use of Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices must adhere to the following:

- a) Only visitors with a substantial mobility limitation in accordance with Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and as defined in 43 CFR Part 17, Subpart E are covered.
- b) Users of a Segway (or other EPAMD'S) as a mobility assistance device must display a blue and white disabled plaque. These may be obtained at the NPS desk in the Independence Visitor Center. Visitors requesting the disabled plaque may use their park Access pass to demonstrate need, or sign the "Statement of Disability" form affirming their need for the mobility device.
- c) Visitors using a Segway or other EPAMD, without a disabled plaque may be approached by an R&VP Park Ranger who will verify that the device is being used for mobility assistance by a person who meets the criteria in (a) as well as offering any other special assistance. If the user does not meet the above criteria, he/she will be asked to dismount and exit the park.

d) The visitor must operate the mobility assisted device in a safe and responsible manner; **maximum speed is 6 mph** (beginner speed). A slower speed of 3 mph is recommended when operating in areas with other visitors or in buildings.

e) Tires must be “commuter” tires or similar, not ATV tires.

f) The park follows Segway’s recommendation that users be at least 16 years old.

g) Visitors riding an EPAMD or Segway on a sidewalk or while crossing a street in a crosswalk have the same rights as pedestrians, except that the EPAMD operator must always yield to pedestrians. Elevator use is the only exception – EPAMD users will enter first, to allow time to park and secure the device and will be the last to exit.

h) Until we have further experience with visitors using Segways or EPAMD’S, there is no restriction on the number who may go on a tour or in a building at one time.

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