Ozark National Scenic Riverways

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Federal law required Ozark National Scenic Riverways to reduce its annual budget beginning on March 1, 2013. In order to meet the required spending reduction the park has reduced staffing which has meant a reduction in mowing throughout the park. If you are interested in having a wedding at the park we highly recommend you visit the location where you would like to have your ceremony prior to submitting your application. Some areas may have heavy vegetation. Questions should be directed to the Commercial Services Program Office at 573/323-4949 or 573/323-4864.

Please be advised that the Alley Mill will be undergoing renovation work during 2014. This may result in limited or no access to the mill at various times, construction materials in and around the building and the presence of work crews. For additional information contact the Commercial Services staff via email at paula_hull@nps.gov or phone 573-323-4949 or 573-323-4864.

Weddings at Ozark National Scenic Riverways

If you are interested in getting married in Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the following information will be helpful in making your plans. A Special Use Permit is required to hold a wedding within Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The permit application fee is $50.00 and is nonrefundable. Additional "cost recovery" fees may apply in cases where the park needs to provide extra services or staff to support the event. Until a Special Use Permit is approved and issued, the requested date and location cannot be guaranteed. Follow the guidelines outlined below to ensure that your permit is in place in time for your special occasion.

Locations: Weddings are permitted in Ozark National Scenic Riverways in a number of locations. Some of the more popular sites are Big Spring and Alley Spring. A visit to the park is highly recommended prior to finalizing your plans in order to decide on a location for your wedding. Please indicate the specific location on the application. The Special Use Permit does not allow your ceremony to restrict other park visitors from your chosen location nor does it guarantee you a specific site.

If you desire a pavilion or group site you will need to make reservations at www.recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777. Depending on the time of year, a fee may be associated with your reservation. If you are interested in reserving facilities operated by our concessioner at Big Spring, please contact www.bigspringlodgeandcabins.com.

Applications: Complete the *Application for Special Use Permit*. Please review the **Terms & Conditions** below before submitting your permit application as they outline the specific requirements and restrictions of the permit. Mail the completed application along with the required application fee to: Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Attn: Commercial Services Program Office, P. O. Box 490, Van Buren, Missouri 63965.

Permits: If your application is approved, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. Upon receipt, please review, sign and return the permit to our office for the Superintendent's

signature. After the Superintendent signs the permit, a copy of the permit will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of the wedding.*

Terms & Conditions: To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences the following restrictions and requirements apply to Special Use Permits for weddings:

1. Wedding ceremonies, including all permitted support equipment (i.e., tables, chairs, tripods, etc.), may only be held within authorized location (see enclosed map). Ceremonies may <u>not</u> be conducted on any public walkways. Set up and placement of support equipment on public walkways is prohibited.

2. Structures, including arches, arbors, tents, shade structures, stages and portable pavilions may not be used or erected. Aisle runners are not permitted.

3. The permittee and participants will not disturb, adversely effect, alter, damage or remove any natural/cultural resources, archeological or historic artifacts. Digging, scraping, chiseling or defacing natural features is prohibited.

4. Historical buildings or other structures may be used as backdrop only. Buildings cannot be used for attachments (such as banners or flowers) or be incorporated into the ceremony as a stage.

5. Permittees may be authorized a maximum of two (2) hours prior to ceremony for event set up and two (2) hours at the conclusion of ceremony for event removal. Parking for set up and bringing in of support equipment (i.e., chairs, table, photographic equipment, etc.) is limited to designated parking areas only.

6. Access to the area must be kept open to the public and weddings cannot interfere with normal visitor activity in any manner. The park will not exclude nor allow permittee to exclude other park visitors from the site during the wedding ceremony or during event set up/removal.

7. All vehicles (including motorcycles) for the wedding party must be parked in designated parking areas. Carpooling is recommended; parking may be limited in some areas. Handicapped parking restrictions will be enforced.

8. Erecting of banners, signs, etc. is prohibited.

9. Electrical power will not be furnished nor will generators be allowed.

10. The use of bubbles or bubble making machines is prohibited.

11. The use of a portable, battery operated sound system is acceptable as long as they meet the standards listed in 36 CFR 2.12(a)(1) and do not interfere with the use of the area by other individuals. No public address systems are allowed.

12. Throwing or scattering of rice, bird seed, flowers or flower petals, confetti, streamers or other similar materials is prohibited. In addition, the use and release of balloons, sky lanterns (Chinese lanterns), animals, including birds, butterflies or other living things are strictly prohibited.

13. Ozark National Scenic Riverways Park Rangers strictly enforce all laws relating to excessive drinking. Permittee and guests must comply with all applicable federal, state, county and Park Service regulations.

14. Permittee will assume all responsibility for cleanup of the site after the ceremony. Please remove any chairs, paper, trash or other items. The Bride/Groom vehicle may not be decorated with cans, paper, streamers or any other item that may be left behind in the park.

15. Permittee is responsible for sharing the terms and conditions of this Special Use Permit with all participants of the permitted activity, and accepts responsibility for monitoring compliance with this permit.

16. Ozark National Scenic Riverways retains the right to close any trail, river section or other areas during emergencies, government shutdowns or park closures, floods, rainfall events exceeding 2 inches in a 24 hour period or other unforeseen situations.

17. Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in the immediate revocation of the permit or denial of future permits.

Other stipulations may be added depending on the specific nature of your request. In addition to the specific terms and conditions articulated in the permit, all other Federal laws and regulations apply.

If you have any questions about the application process or your permit, please contact the Commercial Services Program Office at (573) 323-4949, or email: paula_hull@nps.gov

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