St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Camping

The National Park Service offers a flexible way to experience the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers by providing over a hundred primitive shoreline campsites along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Camping regulations vary on different stretches of the Riverway. It is important to know where you are on the Riverway and what camping rules apply.

This publication provides an overview of each area. More information can be found in the Riverway publication: Camping on the Lower River, and online at www.nps.gov/sacn. State parks, state forests and private campgrounds offer camping in a group setting with many amenities. Contact state tourism websites for information: www.exploreminnesota.com and www.travelwisconsin.com.

The Namekagon River and the St. Croix River North of Highway 8

This area of the Riverway is characterized by stretches of unbroken forested scenery, relatively free-flowing clean waters, and in many areas, quiet solitude. Spending a night on the river can be a rewarding way to capture the essence of river life.

Primitive Shoreline Campsites
There is no fee to camp at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, but visitors must camp only at designated campsites. Riverway campsites are accessible by watercraft on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of these campsites are accessible only from the water. There are also walk-in sites associated with some Riverway landings. Gear must be carried from parking areas.

Campsites include a metal fire ring, a clearing for tents, and a primitive toilet. There are picnic tables at many of the sites.

For locations of all Riverway campsites refer to National Park Service section maps that can be downloaded from the Riverway website at: www.nps.gov/sacn. These maps are also available at many river landings and at visitor centers. Designated campsites are marked with brown and white campsite signs.

Camping Stay and Occupancy Limits
There is a three-night limit of stay at campsites. Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents. All campsites must be occupied on the first night of stay. Equipment left unattended for 24 hours to hold a site will be considered abandoned and park rangers will remove it.

Look for these symbols on maps and signs:

Primitive shoreline campsite	Maximum occupancy: 8 people and 3 tents
Primitive shoreline group campsite	Maximum occupancy: 16 people and 6 tents

Campfires
Open campfires are allowed only in metal campfire rings on this stretch of the Riverway. The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited. Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas, however, it cannot be collected from islands.

Possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the Riverway is prohibited to help control the spread of invasive species.

Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area. When conditions warrant, campfire bans will be posted on bulletin boards and on the Riverway website.

Additional Rules for the St. Croix River from Nevers Dam Landing to Highway 8

All rules listed in the above section including campfire rules apply to the area between Nevers Dam Landing south to the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls. This area is known as the Indianhead Flowage.

Additionally, designated primitive shoreline campsites in this area are reserved for the use of those traveling by small motorboat, canoe, or kayak. Camping where the primary means of travel to the campsite is by motor vehicle, ATV, bicycle, foot, or other land-based mode of transportation is prohibited, except for campsite s55.3 which is handicapped accessible and may be accessed by foot or wheelchair.

Self-contained vessels may tie up for night anchorage anywhere along the shoreline except at designated campsites and on private property. Passengers on self-contained vessels must use onboard toilet facilities and may not build campfires or erect tents on shore.

The St. Croix River from Highway 8 to the Soo Line High Bridge

Specific camping regulations are in effect for the St. Croix River from Highway 8 between St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and Taylors Falls, Minnesota, downriver to the Soo Line High Bridge at river mile 29.5.

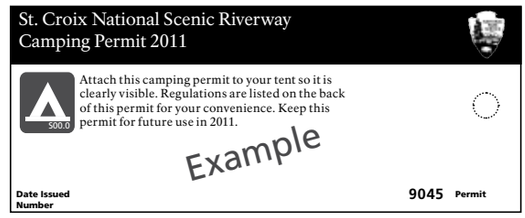
Camping Permits
Visitors who plan to camp outside of state parks in this stretch of river must obtain a free National Park Service annual camping permit. The permit is available at:

St. Croix River Visitor Center
401 North Hamilton Street
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
(715) 483-2274

You can download the permit application at: www.nps.gov/sacn.

Park rangers will review camping regulations with you. Your signature confirms that you understand and will comply with the regulations.

The camping permit must be attached to the tent each time you camp so it is clearly visible.



Campers must camp in designated campsites. Campsites are first-come, first-served, and are marked with brown and white camp signs. For locations of all Riverway campsites refer to National Park Service section maps that can be downloaded from the Riverway website at: www.nps.gov/sacn.

Campsite Capacity and Limit of Stay
As with the upper St. Croix and Namekagon rivers, there is a three-night limit of stay at campsites. Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents. All campsites must be occupied on the first night of stay. Any equipment will be removed from a site that is unoccupied for 24 hours.

Eagle's Nest
The clustered individual sites established at Eagle's Nest south of Franconia will accommodate larger groups; up to a total of 56 people (8 per site). Possession of alcohol is not permitted at Eagle's Nest Campground.

Human Waste and Trash
Proper disposal of human waste is important. To preserve water quality and protect public health, campers are required to possess and use their own portable camp toilets or use onboard facilities on self-contained boats. Inexpensive portable camp toilets are available for purchase at most outdoor recreation equipment stores. All human waste and trash must be carried out and disposed of properly at the end of your stay. Please do not bring glass containers to the river. Broken glass cuts bare feet.

Campfires
Open campfires are allowed only in metal campfire rings on this stretch of the Riverway. The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited. Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas, however, it cannot be collected from islands.

Possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the Riverway is prohibited to help control the spread of invasive species. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.

Soo Line High Bridge to Boomsite Landing

Camping on this stretch of the St. Croix River is limited to islands only. This area is first-come, first served.

All visitors and campers must have immediate access (within 250 feet) to a toilet. Vault toilets are available on Mile Long Island and floating toilets are available at several locations. If not using these facilities or onboard toilets, visitors must bring and use their own portable toilets on all islands and shorelines.

A site can be occupied by the same individual or group for a maximum of 7 consecutive days.

Park rangers check campsites on a regular basis. Any equipment will be removed from a site that is unoccupied for 24 hours.

The collecting of firewood is prohibited between the Soo Line High Bridge and Boomsite Landing due to the susceptibility of this area to erosion. This rule applies to all islands as well as the Minnesota and Wisconsin shorelines.

Possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the Riverway is prohibited to help control the spread of invasive species. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.

Much of the property along the lower sections of the St. Croix River is privately owned. Please observe the rights of property owners by not trespassing or using facilities without the landowner's permission. Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily.

For more information:

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
401 North Hamilton Street
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
(715) 483-2274
www.nps.gov/sacn

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