



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
47050 GENERALS HWY
THREE RIVERS, CA 93271-9651



Weddings in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

A **Special Use Permit** is required for **any** wedding held at any of the approved locations within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI). The permit application fee is \$150 and is non-refundable. Wedding applications may be submitted up to one year in advance. **Applications must be received a minimum of 60 days prior to the event date to be considered.**

Please read all of the attached information and complete the wedding application form. Include your telephone number, address, e-mail address, requested number of people, date, time (maximum of 3 hours), and exact location. A list of currently approved wedding locations is located on our webpage: [Wedding Locations - Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). Also, please include any special needs of the wedding party (i.e. handicapped access, elderly guests, etc.) in your application.

The maximum number of participants, including the wedding party and officiant, allowed at each wedding location is listed at the Wedding Locations webpage listed above. There are no exceptions to the limits. Please monitor our webpage for current wedding permit conditions prior to arrival to ensure you are aware of any changes that may have occurred, as the limit on the number of participants could change based on COVID transmission levels: [Wedding Permits - Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

At this time masks are not currently required outdoors on NPS-managed lands. Face masks are not required in NPS buildings and facilities within Tulare and Fresno Counties when the Centers for Disease Control designate a county as Low or Medium COVID-19 Community Level. The CDC risk level is updated weekly and can be found on the CDC COVID-19 Community Level webpage (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>). Check the U.S. National Park Service Public Health Update page (<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm>) for more information.

Pay by credit card, debit card, or direct debit by accessing www.pay.gov and typing "SEKI" into the search bar. Choose "Continue to the Form" under the "Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP Wedding Permit Fees" form and then choose "Continue to the Form" again to submit payment. Submit the application along with a copy of your proof of payment via email to seki_cua@nps.gov with a Subject line including your last name and "Wedding application".

After we receive your application, it will be reviewed. If approved, a draft permit will be emailed to you for your review and signature. You will then return your signed draft permit to the same email address. Once finalized, no changes can be made to the permit, so please ensure all information is correct before signing and returning the draft permit to us. Once your permit and permit fee are received, your permit will be sent to the Superintendent to be signed and finalized. The finalized permit will then be emailed to you. **The permit must be finalized a minimum of 30 days prior to the event date or it will be cancelled. The finalized permit must be in your possession at the time of the wedding.**

Entrance fees into the SEKI are NOT WAIVED for either wedding participants or guests.

A visit to the SEKI is highly recommended prior to finalizing your plans in order to decide on a site for your wedding. Attached is a list of possible sites along with group size restrictions. For additional questions contact the SEKI Commercial Services Office at seki_cua@nps.gov.

The wedding permit does not allow your ceremony to restrict other park visitors from your chosen location nor does it guarantee you a specific site. Any activity not allowed by the general public will not be allowed by a wedding

party. See the full list of permit conditions below.

It is recommended that you schedule your ceremony for early or late in the day. By doing so, your wedding will have more privacy. **The maximum time allowed for outdoor events is three hours. Wedding permits will not be issued for heavy use periods including Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekend.**

You will need to provide your own officiant for your ceremony. Refer to <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/pages/marriagelicenseinformation.aspx> for information on marriage laws in California.

Receptions may be held only in concessioner facilities or on private property. Delaware North Parks & Resorts have facilities in both parks. DNC provides food service, lodging, grocery, and gift shops as well as catering services for receptions. To reserve an area for a wedding reception at a location operated by Delaware North, please visit their website at www.visitsequoia.com.

All vehicles, including motorcycles, must be parked in designated areas only; no off-road traffic is permitted. Parking is limited, so it is recommended that all wedding participants and guests carpool to the site. Information about transportation to the parks can be found at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/directions.htm. The free Sequoia Shuttles will be running within the Sequoia National Park during the summer of 2022. Information about the shuttles can be found at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm. Special conveyances, including but not limited to horse drawn carriages and hot air balloons, are prohibited.

The conditions listed below also appear on the permit itself.

CONDITIONS OF WEDDING PERMITS

1. The Permittee must perform the work or conduct the activities authorized by this permit in accordance with the permit's terms and conditions and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, or local law, including the regulations in 36 C.F.R. chapter I; the regulations in 43 C.F.R. part 5; and all applicable workplace-safety and public-health orders, rules, and requirements. If the Permittee fails to do so, then the Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (Superintendent) may immediately suspend or revoke this permit without notice.
2. The Superintendent may immediately suspend or revoke this permit without notice if destruction of, loss of, or injury to any park property or resource has occurred, is occurring, or appears imminent. In accordance with the System Unit Resource Protection Act, 54 U.S.C. §§ 100721-100725, any person that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any park system unit resource will be liable to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from the destruction, loss, or injury.
3. The Superintendent may revoke this permit at any time after providing 24 hours' written notice to the Permittee setting forth the reasons for the revocation.
4. If this permit is revoked for any reason or upon its expiration, the Permittee must repair all damage to park property or resources in accordance with the Superintendent's direction and must restore the Permitted Area to its original, pre-permit condition.
5. The Permittee must obtain all federal, state, or local permits, licenses, inspections, or other reviews or approvals legally required to perform the permitted work or conduct the permitted activities.
6. This permit does not grant the Permittee exclusive use of the Permitted Area. Unless the Superintendent restricts public access to or closes the Permitted Area in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 1.5, the Permitted Area will remain open to the public to the same extent that it is open to the public during regular park visiting hours, and the permitted work or activities may not unduly interfere with the public's use and enjoyment of the Permitted Area.
7. This permit may not be transferred or assigned to another party without the Superintendent's prior written approval.
8. The Permittee waives all demands, claims, and causes of action against the United States and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives, and releases the United States and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives from all liability, arising out of or resulting from the permitted work or activities. The National Park Service issues this permit upon the express condition that the United States and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives will be free from all liability of any sort whatsoever arising out of or resulting from the permitted work or activities. Accordingly, the Permittee hereby agrees to indemnify, defend, and save and hold

harmless the United States and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives from and against all liability of any sort whatsoever arising out of or resulting from the permitted work or activities.

9. If the Superintendent requires liability insurance as a condition of issuing this permit, then the Permittee must obtain general liability insurance against claims occasioned by the acts or omissions of the Permittee and its officers, employees, agents, representatives, and contractors while performing the work or conducting the activities authorized by this permit. The policy must be in the amount of \$____0_____ per occurrence and \$____0_____ aggregate; must be issued by a company licensed to do business and in good standing in California; and must name the United States of America as an additional insured. The Permittee must provide the Superintendent with a Certificate of Insurance with the proper endorsements before the permit's effective date.

10. If the Superintendent requires a bond as a condition of issuing this permit, then the Permittee must deposit with the Park, before the effective date of this permit, a bond in the amount of \$____0_____ from a bonding company licensed to do business and in good standing in California or in the form of cash or cash equivalent, to guarantee that all financial obligations to the Park will be satisfied.

11. As authorized by 54 U.S.C. § 103104 or 54 U.S.C. § 100905 and in accordance with other applicable law and policy, the National Park Service will recover all costs of providing necessary services associated with this permit, including the costs of administering the permit and monitoring the permitted work or activities. The National Park Service may bill the Permittee for either actual costs or estimated costs. Payment is due at the time of billing. If the National Park Service bills the Permittee for estimated costs, and actual costs exceed the estimated amounts, then the National Park Service will bill the Permittee for the excess. If the National Park Service bills the Permittee for estimated costs, and actual costs are less than the estimated amounts, then the National Park Service will refund the difference to the Permittee after the permitted work or activities have concluded and the permit has expired or been terminated. Under no circumstances will the National Park Service be liable for interest on any refunded amount.

12. The Permittee is the on-site person responsible for adherence to the permit's terms and conditions. The on-site person must have full authority to make all decisions about the permitted work or activities; must be reachable at all times; and is responsible for all persons or entities performing the permitted work or activities, including the Permittee's contractors and subcontractors.

13. Nothing in this permit binds the National Park Service to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress or allocated by the National Park Service for the purpose of this permit, or to involve the National Park Service in any contract or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or allocations.

14. If any provision of this permit is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this permit will not be affected and may be enforced to the full extent authorized by applicable law.

15. Use of the National Park Service Arrowhead Symbol is governed by 36 C.F.R. part 11. The Arrowhead Symbol is the official emblem and a registered trademark of the National Park Service. The National Park Service must authorize any use of the Arrowhead Symbol, including incidental use. Using the Arrowhead Symbol for advertising, promotional, or other commercial purposes is prohibited. Unauthorized use of the Arrowhead Symbol may subject an individual to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 701.

16. Approval of the special use permit does not constitute and should not be construed as a Government endorsement of the permittee's views, activities, products, goods, services, or enterprise. The permittee shall not refer to special use permits awarded by the National Park Service for commercial purposes, in advertising, or in a manner which states or implies that, by issuing the special use permit, the views, activities, products, goods, services, or enterprises undertaken pursuant to this permit are approved of or endorsed by the Government.

17. Credit Lines may be approved through additional terms and conditions.

18. Federal regulations prohibit any person from knowingly giving false information on an application for a permit and from knowingly giving a false report for the purpose of misleading a government employee or agent in the conduct of official duties. 36 C.F.R. §§ 2.32(a)(3) and 2.32(a)(4). Any violation of those regulations will result in this permit's immediate revocation.

Park-specific Terms and Conditions

19. Permittee will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes and will provide a copy of this permit and conditions to any hired caterers, entertainment, etc.

20. The variety of ecological sites located within the Park boundaries are all important components of the Park's renowned resources as well as important habitats for a host of plants and animals. Some of these areas, such as The General Sherman Tree, The General Grant Tree and Moro Rock, attract a great deal of visitor use, which results in considerable environmental impact. To minimize such impacts and to maintain the scenic and ecological integrity of these sites, special activities such as weddings, formal meetings or parties are not permitted at these sites.

21. Weddings are not allowed around the bases of Sequoia trees or in meadows. Permittee may not cut or otherwise damage any vegetation.

22. For the purposes of this permit the Law Enforcement Ranger Shift Supervisor shall represent the National Park Service. They can be contacted at (559) 565-3195.

23. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Rangers strictly enforce all laws relating to excessive drinking and campsite capacity. The Permittee and guests must comply with all applicable federal, state, county and park regulations.
24. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR-36, 2.12) addresses audio disturbances and prohibits the following: radio, television sets, tape deck or musical instruments, in a manner that exceeds a noise level of 60 decibels measured on the A weighted scale at 50 feet. The use of amplified music or public address systems exceeding these noise levels are not allowed.
25. The use of balloons or any other artificial decorations outdoors that would distract from the public enjoyment of the area or that threaten the resources are prohibited.
26. No event or directional signs are allowed.
27. The release of any animals (butterflies, birds, etc.) is prohibited.
28. Quiet hours start at 10:00 pm through 6:00 am within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and will be observed.
29. No refund will be provided due to weather events or road conditions. Should your wedding site be unusable due to snow, ice or rain, you may contact the Sub-District Ranger to assist you with selecting an alternate site nearby.
30. Birdseed, rice, any other food material or confetti of any kind may not be thrown within the Park.
31. All live, artificial and dried flowers and other plant materials used in arrangements or as decoration must be removed from and disposed of outside the parks.
32. Receptions may be held only in concessioner facilities or on private property. Picnic areas may not be reserved and are only available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Permittee is responsible for preventing wild animals from obtaining food or trash, as well as the cleanup of all its trash and its deposit into animal-proof containers. Food and trash that is not immediately being consumed or stored within an animal-proof container must be attended at all times. All instances of wildlife attempting to obtain food or trash must be reported to the nearest ranger as soon as practical.
33. Parking is limited at the Giant Forest Museum. Vehicles must be parked in designated areas only; travel off of established roads and parking alongside park roads (except where specifically permitted) are not allowed. Only vehicles with handicap placards or license plates may park in handicap spaces. Rangers strictly enforce all parking regulations.
34. Pets are prohibited except in campgrounds and must be leashed at all times.
35. Permittee(s) and guests coming to the Parks for the wedding must pay the usual entrance fee per vehicle. All National Park passes will be accepted.
36. Face masks are not required in NPS buildings and facilities within Tulare and Fresno Counties when the Centers for Disease Control designate a county as Low or Medium COVID-19 Community Level. The CDC risk level is updated weekly and can be found on the CDC COVID-19 Community Level webpage (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>). Masks are not currently required outdoors on NPS-managed lands. Check the U.S. National Park Service Public Health Update page (<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm>) for more information.
37. Permit conditions are subject to change prior to the event as circumstances and guidance evolve. Permit holders are responsible for following conditions that are current on the date of their event.