



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Shenandoah National Park
3655 U.S. Highway 211 East
Luray, Virginia 22835-9036

PARK DIRECTIVE NO. RAD - 608

Subject: Hang Gliding and Paragliding Guidelines

I. Purpose and Exclusions:

This document gives direction for issuing permits for hang gliding or paragliding in Shenandoah National Park. It lists the requirements for pilots of these aircraft in order to be issued a Special Use Permit including certifications levels and specifies the type of aircraft that can be launched from each launch zone.

II. Authority:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 2.17(a)(3), this policy outlines the authority to regulate aircraft use by special use permit within Shenandoah National Park.

III. Policy:

There are three approved launch sites for hang gliding within Shenandoah National Park. These are:

- Millers Head, located at end of Bushy Top Trail
- Hogback, directly west of AT, north of Radio Towers
- Dickey Ridge, directly east of AT, just below Vortec Towers

Dickey Ridge launch site is approved for the launching of paragliders.

Permits will be issued for pilots with a minimum rating of (H3) for hang gliders and (P3) for paragliders with cliff launch capability. **NOTE:** *Qualifications including the certification of pilot skills and the promotion of safety is governed by the United States Hang Gliding Association (USHGA). A copy of certification from this organization is therefore required.*

Proof of permission to land aircraft on private property in the form of a signed letter is required for permit issuance.

Flights are limited to daylight hours when the landing site can be clearly seen from the launch site.

Stunt flying, commercialization, advertising, publicity and competition flying are not permitted.

Helmets must be worn.

Cutting of vegetation is not allowed at launch sites. Use of launch sites and trails leading to sites should be conducted at leave no trace standards.

IV. Procedures:

Applications will be processed in the Communications Center.

The Reviewing official is responsible for verifying

- Age (if under the age of 18, guardian signature is required);
- Letter that gives permission to land on private property is included;
- Documentation of required qualifications is provided with a designation of Cliff Launch certification (designated as CL on card).

Levels of Certification

Hang 1 - Beginner

Hang 2 - Novice

Hang 3 - Intermediate (minimum park certification level)

Hang 4 - Advanced

Hang 5 - Master

CL - Cliff Launch (skill necessary to launch at SNP)

Each authorization will include completion of a special use permit and a hang gliding/paragliding permit.

After verifying that requirements for a permit are met, the reviewing official should route a copy of the approved special use permit to the Superintendent's Secretary with payment attached. Permits will be approved by the Chief Ranger.

The approved permits should then be mailed to the applicant.

Files of all approved permits will be maintained with the Ranger Activities Division.

Approved:

Superintendent

Date