

In 1964, Congress passed a law known as the Wilderness Act, which created a National Wilderness Preservation System. Today, over 100 million acres throughout the United States are protected as wilderness. These areas are to remain as natural as possible, “where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” While these places are wild and unforgiving, solitude and outstanding opportunities for recreation abound for those who are prepared.

Shenandoah National Park contains nearly 80,000 acres of federally designated wilderness. Help protect the Shenandoah Wilderness for present and future generations by practicing principles of Leave No Trace.



- ☐ Understand and follow all backcountry regulations
- ☐ Have a backcountry camping permit
- ☐ Pack the ten essentials including a detailed map, first-aid kit, light source, extra clothes, and a method of treating water
- ☐ Store food, trash, and scented items properly
- ☐ Bury human waste properly and carry out all trash, including toilet paper
- ☐ Practice the seven Leave No Trace principles
- ☐ Follow campsite location setback distances as shown below:



Backcountry Camping Brochure

Backcountry Camping Permit

A backcountry camping permit is required for all backcountry camping. Permits are purchased through Recreation.gov. Online: <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/4675336> Phone: (877)-444-6777



Permits can be obtained the day of your trip or up to 90 days in advance. You will need to know some details about your trip, including:

- Start/end dates
- Entry/exit location
- The backcountry zone you will be camping in each night (map and descriptions of zones on Rec.gov)

After your order is submitted, you will receive an email including your permit. You must have a copy of this permit, either saved digitally or printed, on your person during your trip.

A detailed park hiking map is essential to help plan your trip and navigate in the park's backcountry. Maps can be purchased at park stores or by visiting:

Shenandoah National Park Association
www.snpbooks.org

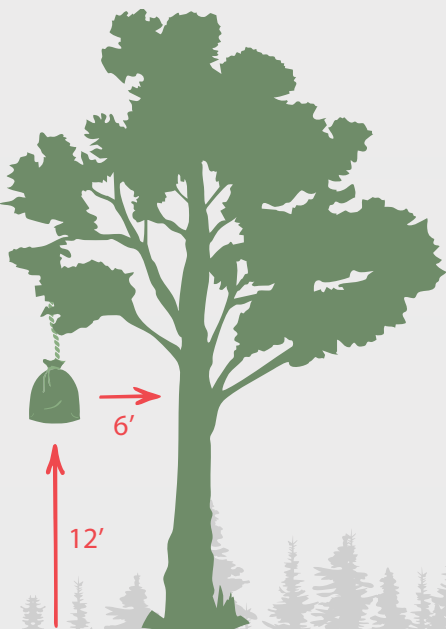
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
www.patc.net



Rules and Regulations

1. Backcountry camping is dispersed. Good campsites are found, not made. Clearing vegetation is not permitted. Your campsite must follow the setback distances listed on the reverse side
2. Campfires are not permitted except in pre-constructed fireplaces at backcountry huts and day-use shelters
3. Camping may not exceed two consecutive nights in the same location or 14 total consecutive nights
4. Maximum group size is 10
5. Pets must be on a physical leash no more than six feet long. Carry out pet waste, or if necessary, bury it at least 6 inches away from any water source
6. Human waste must be buried at least six inches and all toilet paper packed out. Solid waste is prohibited within 20 yards of water, trails, and structures
7. Food and scented items must be stored properly by using:

- A certified bear-resistant container.
- A bear hang in a tree at least 12 feet above the ground and 6 feet from any trunks or branches
- Hang poles and storage boxes at A.T. backcountry huts



Special Closures

Camping closures protect special park resources. Be sure to know where they are located. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/backcountry-regulations.htm>

Camping is prohibited in the following areas:

- Tuscarora-Overall Run
- North Marshall (over 3200 ft elevation)
- Mary's Rock (over 3400 ft elevation)
- Stony Man and Little Stony Man
- Limberlost area
- Whiteoak Canyon
- Hawksbill
- Old Rag (over 2800 ft elevation)
- Big Meadows
- Rapidan Camp (within 1/2 mile)



Visualize your plans - try our interactive map: <https://arcg.is/0j0iGf0>



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors