

# **Camping on Town of Goshen Property**

## **Policy**

The Town of Goshen allows camping at the town's discretion on designated properties by permit only. The following policy specifies the requirements for primitive camping on Town of Goshen Property.

### **1. Camping Policy**

#### **a. Locations**

- i. Camping is allowed only on properties designated by the Town of Goshen as "Primitive Campsites open for camping". These sites are listed on the Town of Goshen website.

#### **b. Permits**

- i. Camping is by permit only. Only one permit per designated location per period will be issued. Permits can be obtained by contacting the Fiscal Office.
- ii. Permits are issued at the discretion of the Town of Goshen, and may limit group size and the duration of use depending on the area selected for camping. Camping permits must be held by a resident of the Town of Goshen age 18 or older. Adult supervision is required for all campers under the age of 18.

#### **c. Campfires**

- i. Campfires are not permitted when the CT DEEP Daily Forest Fire Danger Report is moderate, high, very high, or extreme as posted at the Town Hall or on the DEEP website.
- ii. The fire danger report determination and campfire are the responsibility of the permittee.

#### **d. Camping Preparedness and Emergencies**

- i. By requesting a camping permit, the permittee acknowledges and agrees to the following:
  1. I understand and acknowledge that there are certain inherent risks associated with camping.
  2. I have considered these risks and have appropriately prepared for camping.
  3. I will ensure that there is at least one working cellular phone with my party at all times while on town property, and will dial 911 to request emergency assistance if needed.
  4. I will do my best to ensure that my camping activities will have a minimum impact on town property, and to leave town property in the condition that I found it in upon my arrival.
  5. I understand that failure to clean up my campsite upon leaving may result in my being prohibited from future use of town land for camping purposes.

6. I will have a copy of the approved permit at the campsite at all times.

## **2. Policy for a Safe and Successful Camping Experience**

### **a. Planning and Preparing**

- i. Proper trip planning and preparation helps campers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources. Campers who plan ahead can avoid unexpected situations, and minimize their impact by complying with area regulations such as observing limitations on group size. Proper planning ensures:

1. Low-risk adventures because campers obtained information concerning geography and weather and prepared accordingly.
2. Minimal trash because of careful meal planning, food repackaging, and proper equipment.
3. Comfortable and fun camping experience because the outing matches the skill level of the participants.

### **b. Camp on Durable Surfaces**

- i. Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting barren areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites, and soil erosion.
  1. Campers should concentrate their activities where vegetation is already absent. Keep campsites small by arranging tents in close proximity.
  2. Always choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, sand, compacted soil, dry grasses, or snow.

### **c. Dispose of Trash (Pack It In, Pack It Out)**

- i. There are no facilities on Town of Goshen properties for the disposal of trash. Camping on Town of Goshen property requires that the campers take their trash home with them. Inspect your campsite for trash or spilled foods and pack everything out.

### **d. Sanitation**

- i. **Wastewater:** Most of Goshen's water eventually ends up as someone else's drinking water so preventing contamination of natural water sources is of utmost importance.
  1. After straining food particles, properly dispose of dishwater by dispersing at least 200 feet (about 80 to 100 strides for a youth) from springs, streams, and lakes. Use biodegradable soap 200 feet or more from any water source.
- ii. **Human Waste:** To help prevent the spread of disease and exposure to others, dig holes 6 to 8 inches deep in the soil at least

200 feet from water, trails, and campsites to dispose of feces. Cover with the excavated soil.

**e. Minimize Site Alterations**

- i. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. It may be illegal to remove artifacts.
- ii. Do not dig tent trenches or build lean-tos, tables, or chairs. Never hammer nails into trees, hack at trees with hatchets or saws, or damage bark and roots. Replace surface rocks or twigs that you cleared from the campsite.

**f. Campfires**

- i. Preparing a camp fire location:
  1. Dig a pit away from overhanging branches.
  2. Circle the pit with rocks.
  3. Clear a 10-foot area around the pit down to the dirt, removing anything that could catch on fire.
  4. After lighting, throw the match into the fire.
  5. Never leave a campfire unattended.
  6. An adult should supervise the campfire at all times.
  7. Have a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
  8. When it's time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is cold before leaving the campsite. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

**g. Respect Wildlife and Property**

- i. Wild animals including black bears, moose, deer and bobcats have been sighted in Goshen and campers should manage their campsite food and supplies accordingly.
- ii. Campers are to be respectful of their natural surroundings during hiking and camping on Town of Goshen property.

Approved by the Board of Selectmen June 20, 2017