

More Information - packing, using the camp

Bathhouses

Please be careful to show respect for others and their personal space. If one of the rooms in the bathhouse is in use consider using another room which is not. If sharing space is necessary please observe social distancing and use face coverings.

We have composting toilets in the bathhouse at Catoctin. To use these, only put toilet paper and human waste in the toilet (nothing else, please). Put the lid down to keep the stink from coming round!

Each visit, please spray all surfaces you may have touched with bleach solution and wipe with paper towels before you leave. Adults will need to assist children with bleach solutions.

Please do not leave any personal belongings in or around the bathhouses. (Cubbies will be covered or removed)

Bathhouses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected once a day. We will ask for volunteers to help with daily cleaning.

Cleaning supplies, bleach solutions, spray bottles, liquid soap and paper towels will be provided.

Cabins and Campsites

Cabin and campsites cleaning will be the responsibility of the families or groups using them.

Trash can be deposited in the dumpster in the central part of the camp. Recycling cans will be provided near the dumpster.

Water can be obtained at the bathhouse or the outdoor faucet at the back porch.

The kitchen, lodge and dining hall will not be open. Please do not use any buildings besides your cabin and the bathhouse.

Food storage and trash

Catoctin is home to a broad variety of wildlife and even has occasional visits by black bears (During regular camping season, bears do not come into camp much as there are lots of people and noise, but during this much quieter time, it may be an issue). Food and scented items, including toiletries, will need to be stored appropriately. Do not leave food in your cabin or vehicles. Trash needs to be disposed of in the dumpster near the parking area daily, and should not be left around the campsite or cabins at night, as it too attracts bears and other critters.

You can store food and toiletries suspended from trees at least 12 feet off the ground. Bags, backpacks, stuff sacks, pillow cases etc. will work if they are suspended between 2 trees. You can also use bear bags or bear canisters but they should also be suspended from trees. Certified bear resistant coolers that are padlocked or bolted shut and anchored will also work well. We will provide one rope for suspending food bags and groups can make others if you think you will need them. Groups will need to provide bags for food and rope for additional locations if desired.

Fires and Firewood

Fires will only be allowed as the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Service permits.

A quantity of firewood will be provided at each site. It may not be enough to last all 5 nights. Other dead wood found on the ground can be collected. There may also be split and stacked wood around the camp that can be moved to your site. Please do not use wood from the firecircle, lodge, wood shed or caretaker's cabin.

We will supply cooking grates for fire pits. Fires must be kept low (flames should never be higher than an adults hip). Water for extinguishing fires will be provided but if it is used it must be replaced immediately. Never attempt to extinguish a grease fire with water.

Supervision of the younger folks

Each group will need to have at least one person who is over 21. Adults in each group will need to be responsible for younger participants at all times.

The Lagoon

We will not be able to test the water for swimming this year and we will not be able to provide lifeguards for the pond. Therefore, Swimming will not be permitted. Wading and boating will still be allowed with the permission of parents or guardians, the use of life preservers, and with adult supervision for minors.

Safe gatherings

Whether or not family groups are able to interact will be contingent on the guidance and orders of the State of Maryland and Frederick County Maryland and adherence to the guidance the state, county and CDC provide.

That said, it is imperative that each group takes responsibility for their own safety, makes their own decisions about if or how they will interact with other groups. Please show respect for the decisions of other groups and honor their choices.

AT A MINIMUM

Whenever, members of different families choose to engage in activities together:

They will keep their group size smaller than 10 people;

Maintain appropriate physical distancing and use face covering as appropriate;

Face coverings will be used whenever individuals from separate groups are temporarily forced to be closer than 6 feet from each other.

If it is possible for groups larger than 10 to gather (for Meeting for worship or a firecircle for example), masks or face coverings will be worn and physical distancing of at least 6 feet will be maintained.

Community Message Board

We will have a community message board on the lodge porch. Use it to pass messages to other groups about day trips, town trips or other activities and check it daily for messages from camp.

When you leave

Please leave cabins swept and relatively dust free. Please remove all trash from the cabins and campsite areas.

Cabins will be sprayed with bleach solution weekly between visitors.

Water for camp fire control will be provided in blue barrels or 5 gallon buckets. Please replace what you use before you leave.

Things to pack

This list contains some ideas about what to pack. It is not exhaustive or complete. Think it through...

you will need:

Food for the week

Cooler(s)

Ice

First aid kit

Clothing

Mattresses and bedding or sleeping bags

Towels

Flashlights

Pots and pans, plates and utensils - We will provide a grill/grate for over the fire

Containers for moving and storing water

Food storage bags (for hanging food)

Rope

Trashbags

rain gear

river/goon sneakers (old sneakers you don't mind getting wet)

Optional

Camp stoves (very useful - cooking all meals over open fire is difficult)

Camp chairs

Battery operated or solar lanterns

Balls, games, books, etc.

hammock

There is no wifi at Catoctin. T Mobile phones get the best signal there. Others are spottier.