








## Frequently Asked Questions


### Arapaho and Roosevelt NF and Pawnee NG















Camping		<b>How do I find a campground?</b>	Check out our <a href="#">Campground Table</a> ! This table lists the 50+ campgrounds we have across the forest, the total number of sites in the each campground, dates that the campground is open, the location of the campground. Please note that only about a quarter of those campgrounds are reservable and majority of the campgrounds are first come first serve.
		<b>How can I make a camping reservation?</b>	You need to plan ahead! Many of our campgrounds are reserved up to 6 months in advance. The best time to make a campground reservation is 180 days before your arrival, by searching for the campground in <a href="https://www.recreation.gov">recreation.gov</a> . <i>Campground reservations cannot be made within 3 or less days from your arrival.</i>
		<b>Are there any campsites available?</b>	Good question. If you call our office we likely won't know if a campsite is available, as there are not any direct lines to the campgrounds to find out. National Forest campgrounds are intended to be a primitive escape from the hustle and bustle, so most of them don't have cell service. We do receive periodic updates from campground hosts or recreation staff who maintain the campground, but these updates are not an accurate representation of current availability!
		<b>How can I find a campsite for the weekend?</b>	By going to first come, first served campgrounds! Many of our campgrounds are non-reservable, or have sites that are first come, first-served. If a site is open when you arrive (no paid tag on the campsite post, no one occupying the site) then you may pull into the site and pay for the number of nights you would like to stay by using the self-serve fee tube at the entrance of the campground (cash or check only). YOU (not your belongings) MUST OCCUPY THE SITE during the first night of stay. Warning: first come, first served sites frequently fill up as soon as Thursday night or Friday morning during the summer months.
		<b>Where can I camp when the campgrounds are full?</b>	You may dispersed camp, also called "boondocking" or "drop-camping". However, this style of camping takes extra planning! There are areas on the forest that you are permitted to camp not within a developed campground or recreation site. When camping in these locations you are completely self-sufficient and away from amenities such as restrooms, picnic tables, water, etc. You need to prepare ahead of time and know where you intend to stay, bring everything to be self- sufficient (water, a way to handle your waste, proper food and trash storage, etc.), and know the regulations. <a href="#">Motor Vehicle Use Maps</a> are a handy way to determine where you may legally disperse camp, noted by a dotted line along the side of roads. Please follow Leave No Trace principles.

Campfires 	Can I have a campfire?	It depends on the current fire restrictions for the forest (not the county or city fire restrictions). Please check today's <a href="#">fire restrictions</a> to see if you may have a campfire. Fire restrictions are organized into three stages: Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3. Stage 1 is the lowest restriction which allows visitors to have campfires in Forest Service installed metal fire rings only. Stage 2 does not allow fires of any kind. Stage 3 is the highest restriction and results in a closure of the forest to all visitors.
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Weddings 	How can I have a wedding in the National Forest?	Group events, gatherings, weddings, elopements, and other group activities are allowed on Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. We implement regulations around group events to prevent resource damage and promote multiple use. Events may require a permit depending on group size, location, and other factors. Additionally, photographers, caterers, and other businesses involved may need various permits depending on the situation. More information on permitting for weddings and events can be found <a href="#">on our webpage</a>
	Do I need a photography permit to take engagement or wedding photos on the forest?	You are allowed to take photos on the forest without a permit as long as there is no creation of a product for sale other commercial purposes (advertising). When taking photos on the forest, both personally or professionally, you may not disturb or displace other users or alter the environment (no fences, altars, stages, etc.) Wedding photographers for small elopements/ceremonies on the National Forest do not need to obtain a permit as long as the photographs are for nominal use by friends and families and are not resold or used for commercial purposes. Information about photography requiring a permit can be <a href="#">found here</a> .

Forest Service Roads 	What are the road conditions?	Road conditions vary from season to season and day to day. A great place to see if a road is open or closed are our <a href="#">Road Status Tables</a> , which are organized by Ranger District. When driving on Forest Service roads please be aware that conditions may change while you are out on the forest. You could encounter trees down along your route, rain and snow causing mud pits and hazardous driving conditions, even if a road is marked as open on the website. The majority of our roads are closed due to hazardous conditions and snow from Nov. 15-June 15.
	What vehicles are allowed?	The type of vehicle permitted on each road varies from road to road, the best resource to determine what vehicle you may drive on a particular road is by consulting the <a href="#">Motor Vehicle Use Maps</a> . These maps are available in a variety of formats including printable PDF or mobile device downloads which offers off-line GPS tracking with the Avenza App. Using the map legend and the shading of road you can determine if the road is open to “highway legal vehicles only”, “all vehicles”, “off-road vehicles” or “motorcycles”.

 Forest Products	 <p>How can I harvest firewood to take home?</p>	<p>You may purchase wood bundles from campground hosts or collect small amounts of dead and down wood for immediate use (i.e. picnicking or camping). When harvesting firewood, transplants, post and poles, or mushrooms to take home, those resources are categorized as “Forest Products”. A permit is required to remove these products. Permits are generally available for purchase between May – Nov. If you would like to request a permit to remove Forest Product to take home for personal use, please visit our <a href="#">Forest Product page</a>.</p>
	 <p>How can I harvest mushrooms for personal use?</p>	<p>When harvesting mushrooms, firewood, transplants, or post and poles to take home, those resources are categorized as “Forest Products”. A permit is required to remove these products. Permits are generally available for purchase, months May – Nov. If you would like to request a permit to remove Forest Product to take home for personal use, please visit our <a href="#">Forest Product page</a>.</p>
 Shooting	 <p>Where can I target shoot?</p>	<p>You may target shoot on the forest as long as you are staying outside of <a href="#">shooting area closures</a>, you are not shooting across roads or trails, not shooting within 150 yards of any developed buildings or recreation sites (such as a campsite) or occupied areas, not shooting in any place or manner where person or property may be exposed to injury, and you are not firing tracer bullets. Additionally, we have <a href="#">target restrictions</a> specific to the forests and grassland; exploding targets are never allowed! If you prefer to shoot at a developed, designated, shooting area you can use the following <a href="#">Colorado Parks and Wildlife tool</a> to find your nearest range.</p>
 Hiking	 <p>How can I find where to go hiking?</p>	<p>Plan ahead! There are many resources online, through apps, and on our forest website that can offer great suggestions to start your trip planning. We recommend COTrex, but always remember to check our website and public forums for trail updates. For a complete list of trails on our forest please visit the <a href="#">day hiking</a> or <a href="#">backpacking</a> page on our website. Another great online resource to start your trip planning is <a href="#">interactive National Forest Visitor Map</a>, which will allow you to explore recreational opportunities in our forest and nation-wide. Additionally, local resources such as the <a href="#">Poudre Wilderness Volunteers</a> in Larimer county and the <a href="#">Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance</a> for Indian Peaks and James Peak wilderness are other great resource to find trails and trail conditions.</p>
	 <p>Can I bring my dog?</p>	<p>You may bring your leashed dog on most Forest Service trails. The exceptions to this rule include: Brainard Lake recreation trail which has different rules base on season and trails, or if a trail crosses into another federal land boundary such as the National Park service where dogs are not allowed.</p>

Reservations		<b>Backpacking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness</b>	Permits are required for any overnight trips into the <a href="#">Indian Peaks Wilderness</a> or for any large groups (8-12) people hiking within the wilderness area. Overnight permits are required June 1 – Sept. 15 for overnight users and year-round for large groups. Permits for the whole season will be released the first Tuesday of March through the recreation.gov <a href="#">Full Season in Advance Page</a> , so you will need to plan ahead. A small number of permits are withheld from this initial release and are released on a 3-day rolling window during the June 1 – Sept. 15 season, on the <a href="#">3-day in Advance Page</a> .
		<b>Brainard Lake</b>	During the summer, timed entry tickets are required for entry into the Brainard Lake Recreation Area, and sold on <a href="#">recreation.gov</a> , by parking area. You need to park in the lot for which you have purchased a timed entry ticket. Reservations open 8AM MST the Thursday before Memorial Day and are available on a 15 day rolling window until October 16 <sup>th</sup> . If you have a <a href="#">Pawnee campground reservation</a> you do not need a timed entry to enter the recreation area, but if you plan to park anywhere other than the campground, you will need a timed entry for that specific lot. If you have an overnight permit for the <a href="#">Indian Peaks Wilderness</a> you will still need a timed entry <a href="#">Overnight Parking permit</a> for where you plan on parking within Brainard Lake Recreation Area; these are also made available the first Tuesday or March. During the winter you do not need any timed entry reservations, since the only open parking area is Gateway.
		<b>Timed entry Mount Blue Sky</b>	The opening date of <a href="#">Mount Blue Sky</a> is weather and road condition dependent. Conditions permitting, Mount Blue Sky usually opens during Memorial Day weekend and stays open until the Labor Day holiday. Timed entry tickets are required for entry through the <a href="#">recreation.gov website</a> . Reservations of timed entry tickets are available 30 days in advance of the first of the month at 8AM MST. For example on June 1, tickets will be available for the dates of July 1-31. Additionally, a handful of tickets will be available on a two day rolling window throughout the season. Please note that tickets need to be purchased in advance, as there is no service or timed entry tickets available for sale at the entrance
		<b>AA Barn</b>	<a href="#">The AA Barn</a> is a large group picnic site available for day reservations. A reservation grants your group access to the barn from sun-up to sun-down. The barn is available for reservations during the months of June, July, August, September, and reservations generally open January 1 <sup>st</sup> . To learn more about the AA Barn and to make a reservation please visit <a href="#">recreation.gov</a> . *Please note that reservations are only available for the same calendar year.
		<b>Mestaa'Èhehe Mountain Fire Lookout</b>	The fire lookout is available for overnight use and reservations are released on a six-month rolling window on the <a href="#">recreation.gov website</a> , year round. The fire lookout contains an electric stove, refrigerator, heat, table, exterior incinerating toilet, and bed for 4 people. There is no cleaning between bookings, and guest are expected to pack-in and pack-out all trash and personal belongings.