

DISPERSED CAMPING ON THE FOREST

Many enjoy the solitude and primitive experience of dispersed camping - camping away from developed campgrounds and other campers. However, no services and little to no facilities are provided. Additional responsibilities and skills may be necessary for a successful trip, and it is your responsibility to know your limits and abilities before you try this experience. Camping rules and regulations apply; they make your experience safe and they keep Forest settings scenic and unspoiled for fellow campers.

1. [Leave No Trace](#)
2. [Be Bear Aware](#): Bears call the National Forests in Florida home, so camp accordingly.
3. Minimize Waste
 - a. Pack it in, pack it out. Dispose of all garbage in proper receptacles.
 - b. Bury all human and pet waste at least 6-inches deep and at least 100-feet away from any water source.
4. Camp Considerately
 - a. Dispersed camping is not allowed in the vicinity of developed recreation areas or less than 100 feet from streams and other water sources.
 - b. Pick a previously-used site. Plants, soil and wildlife are impacted by new campsites.
 - c. Make your campsite less visible so other visitors can experience a “wild” setting. Avoid camping in the middle of a clearing or meadow.
 - d. Be aware of forest boundaries, and get permission before camping on private property.
5. Control your Campfire
 - a. Check if you are in an area with campfire restrictions; restrictions are listed on Alerts & Notices and on Forest Orders.
 - b. Where fires are permitted, minimize the scarring of new rocks, soil and plants by using existing fire rings, fire pans or mound fires.
 - c. Down and dead firewood may be gathered around your camping area for use at your campsite. Do not cut standing trees or cut limbs off standing trees.
 - d. Burn all wood and coals down to ashes and extinguish campfires completely by generously dousing with water and stirring with a shovel. Before leaving your campsite, make certain your campfire is dead out, wet, and cold to the touch.
6. Know the Rules
 - a. Generally there is a 14-day per month stay limit on the National Forests in Florida. Establishing residency is against federal regulation.
 - b. Groups of over 75 people who wish to use the forest will need to obtain a special use permit. Please contact the nearest District Office to where you plan to hold your event.
 - c. Pets are welcome in most areas, but must be kept under control at all times.
 - d. Camping is allowed only in designated campsites during general gun season, as defined in [Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) regulations for the [Wildlife Management Areas](#) that encompass our forests. Brochures and maps can be found on FWC’s websites at:
 - i. [Apalachicola](#)
 - ii. [Ocala](#)
 - iii. [Osceola](#)