

The Sacramento District Review

4 Lost Lodge Rd, Cloudcroft, NM 88317

575-682-2551

What is a Campground Host?



Trestle Recreation Area

maintenance on campground facilities i.e. thinning, pruning or pulling vegetation.

- Marcie Kelton

Campground hosts are volunteers that represent the Forest Service; they greet visitors, provide information, and help with the daily maintenance needed to provide a safe and clean experience for the visiting public. Specifically, campground hosts:

- Offer explanation of regulations, such as the campground fee system, and answer questions on local attractions, activities, and current road and trail conditions.
- Perform minor

- Refer visitors who need help to the proper forest officer.
- Participate in interpretive programs and maintain bulletin boards.
- Perform limited campsite cleaning by picking up litter in and around campsites or picnic sites, along roadways, pathways and in parking lots.
- Clean fire rings and restrooms.
- Open and close gates daily.
- Monitor use of trails, trailheads, campsites and picnic sites.
- Other necessary duties as assigned.

Hosts are required to be on site five days per week, especially on the weekends and busy holidays. The most important job as a campground host is to provide an enjoyable camping experience for the public.

The host is the first and sometimes the only contact with campground users. Recreation hosts represent and are the "eyes and ears" of the Forest Service. Phones or portable radios are provided to contact police for help or in case of emergencies. The host is expected to set a good example by role modeling a clean and uncluttered living site.

- Enjoy working positively with the public, being visible and be neat in appearance.
- Commit to volunteering fulltime for dates specified.



"Don't knock the weather: nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

- Kin Hubbard



And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.

- Lee Greenwood

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Being a Campground Host?...Continued

- Maintain a valid driver's license.
- Commit to volunteering fulltime for dates specified.
- Agree to a background check as hosts handle sensitive information, have access to police frequencies on radio, and in some cases handles cash.
- Provide own self-contained living unit.

What sort of people become Campground Hosts? Although hosts are of different ages and backgrounds, they are friendly, cooperative, and like to help others.

They enjoy the outdoors, are experienced campers with

a wealth of knowledge to share and are eager to learn and share knowledge about their forest area. A host must be at least 18 years of age and supply their own camper, trailer, etc.

Most hosts are retired persons who enjoy spending their summers in the mountains. They are usually unpaid and act as campground hosts because of a love for the forest and enjoy interacting with people.

The satisfaction of helping both the National Forest and its visitors is a host's greatest reward. By their presence, hosts minimize vandalism, thereby saving the

taxpayer many dollars in upkeep and property damage. There is no substitute for the personal touch that makes a camper feel welcome and at home. Who else can inform a visitor where the best hiking spot is, or who built the trestle at the end of the trail?

Hosts meet visitors from all walks of life and often fellow campers become lasting friends. Many hosts return to the same campground year after year, sharing stories of new grandchildren, winter activities and old memories.

To find out more information on becoming a host or volunteer, please contact Marcie Kelton, Recreation Staff, Sacramento Ranger District, 575-682-2551.



Campground host at the Silver Overflow Campground.

Slash Pit Schedule

The slash pit will be open:

Saturday, May 7

Saturday, May 14

Hours of Operation:

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please remember the Slash Pit is for private land owner use.

The pit schedule is based on how full it gets, when it is burned, weather conditions, time of year, and how long it takes for the pit to cool down after burning before new slash material can be added. This is done for public and Forest Service safety.

Please note, this schedule is subject to change.

For more information please visit the Sacramento Ranger District Office or call (575) 682-2551.

Office Hours

The Sacramento Ranger District Office is located in the Village of Cloudcroft, at #4 Lost Lodge Road, one mile south of Highway 82 on Highway 130. We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Federal Holidays. Open Saturday starting May 14, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Early Logging on the Sacramento Mountains

- Mickey Mauter

This is part one of four that will cover different aspects of the timber industry in the Sacramento Mountains. Articles include Logging Companies and their products, market trends, forest management, and current trends.

Imagine your great great grandparents looking westward, dreaming of mountains filled with trees, anxious to start a new life. These were the hopes and dreams of settlers moving into southern NM. The people that settled the mountains were a hardy group that endured cold hard winters because they lived amidst a tranquil beauty that can't be found anywhere else.

These folks were an independent lot that weren't afraid of working hard and getting dirty. They chose to work in the woods

because of the freedom it gave them to raise a family and make a living at something they enjoyed. Smelling the fresh pine resin of newly felled timber is an aroma that beckons loggers to the woods day in and day out. The character of the men and women that call the forest their office hasn't changed since the profession began.

The science of forestry has also evolved over time. Early foresters would measure trees and core trees to understand how fast they grew, and sell the larger trees to the saw mills. As time went on forestry evolved and management practices changed. There was a lot of trial and error associated with different ideas of how to grow trees faster on diverse landscapes. Because the pace of science continues to escalate, Foresters

have become Ecologists in order to understand how organisms interact with each other.

The history of logging has always been driven by supply and demand and has been resilient through time to changing politics, market swings, technology, and the ever rising cost of staying in business. The local economy was transformed from primarily frontier farming and ranching to a capital-intensive industrial base.

During this time the tourist and resort business also flourished.

Railroad construction required vast amounts of timber for trestles, crossties, buildings, culverts, water tanks, and cooling chutes, and for the general upkeep and maintenance of the system. Mining companies in the area also required a large quantity of timber for underground supports and material-handling structures, both above and below the surface. Small saw mills sprang up across the Sacramento Mountains to supply the influx of settlers rough lumber to build homes, barns, and outbuildings. Next month...Logging Companies and Their Products.

Early Log train in the Sacramento Mountains

