



# Campground Hosting

...for the Espanola & Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts

**What would I do?:** Campground hosting involves greeting campers and Forest users and providing the rules and regulations for camping, answers to questions about the area, recreation opportunities, and occasionally an ear for the interesting story told by the camper. Typically, campground hosts are on duty Wednesday to Sunday and make rounds in the morning and evening to ensure campsites used the night before are ready for the next guest, check on campers, pick up trash, clean the bathrooms and fire rings, and make note of any concerns that need to be brought to the attention of the appropriate Forest Service employee.

A weekly reimbursement of \$50 or \$100 will be provided. The amount depends on the campground where the host is residing and is based on the number of campsites at that particular campground.

**Please apply at [volunteer.gov/gov](https://www.volunteer.gov) prior to the summer season. Available host positions will be posted for specific campgrounds.**

**Who may enjoy this opportunity?:** This volunteer opportunity is suitable for those that like being around people, enjoy meeting new people, and helping those people while they are staying in the campground and recreating in the nearby Forest. The ideal person or couple will have an RV to stay in for the duration of their time as campground hosts. Many people take on RVing and campground hosting when they retire. The campgrounds on the Santa Fe National Forest are in the mountains, which provide relief from the hot summer days in the lower elevations.

**What qualifications do I need?:** No campground hosting experience is required, but it is preferred. An interest and passion for camping and working with people in the great outdoors is very helpful.

**How often should I be in contact with the District Volunteer Coordinator during my time as a volunteer?:** Typically, the District Volunteer Coordinator will conduct the initial interview and screening process. Then, a Recreation Technician from the District where the campground is located will greet and get the new hosts set up at their host pad. A volunteer agreement will need to be read, filled out, and signed by each host. Plus, a Job Hazard Analysis pertaining to campground hosting will be addressed with the hosts and covers potential hazards and methods to stay safe while hosting.

**How much of a time commitment is this opportunity?:** The average stay for a host/host couple is from early May to late October. Depending on the amount of snow and temperatures for that year, the campground may be delayed in opening or may close early. It is very important to remain flexible if you are chosen as the host/host couple and stay in touch with the District Volunteer Coordinator to determine an appropriate start and end date.

**How would I benefit from this opportunity/?:** Campground hosts are provided, depending on the campground and host amenities, free sewer, propane, electricity, water, and DSL computer access (Black Canyon Campground only). Aside from the amenities, folks that volunteer as hosts have the opportunity to spend the Spring/Summer/Fall season living in a beautiful landscape where access to town is relatively easy in terms of time. Plus, hosts meet many people from all walks of life.

**Is there an interview/training?:** Yes, the District Volunteer Coordinator will set up an interview after she has received your application through [volunteer.gov/gov](http://volunteer.gov/gov). Please look for the announcement and reference this in your application. The interview will occur over the phone and will consist of approximately 15 questions related to your interest in hosting, past experiences, goals, and comfort level in becoming a host. Three references (job and/or character related) will be required. Please choose references that know you from your past employment or community involvement, etc. Please do not choose family members or friends for references.

An orientation will be provided upon your arrival at the campground. A volunteer agreement with an attached Job Hazard Analysis will be filled out and signed by the individual and then followed up for review and signature from the District Ranger. Reimbursement forms will also be provided.

**What time of year is this opportunity offered?:** May to October, typically. The evenings in May and October can be cold and often close to freezing. The high in June/July is typically in the 70s to low 80s.

**Are tools and equipment provided?:** No tools are required, and all supplies for the hosting portion of your stay will be provided within reason. A host/host couple with an RV is preferred. Pets are allowed. Cats must be kept inside the RV and are not allowed to wander the area.

**Do I need CPR/First Aid training?:** No, it is not required for this volunteer opportunity. However, it is recommended that anyone hosting at a campground be familiar with the basic procedures of First Aid/CPR as EMS response time is delayed due to the typical distance from the closest town (20 to 45 minutes).

**Whom do I contact for the opportunity?:** Please contact Jennifer Sublett, District Volunteer Coordinator, at 505-753-7331 or [jasublett@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasublett@fs.fed.us)

**Updated 12-17-12 by JAS**