



Ape Cave Timed Reservation System

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

What is different about accessing Ape Cave this year?

Ape Cave was closed to the public in Spring of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to implement a toilet replacement project. On May 18, 2021, Ape Cave will re-open to the public with a new, timed reservation system.

Why is this change being implemented?

This change is being implemented to provide a quality visitor experience by managing increased visitation, protect the cave and limit resource damage, and improve public safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, by reducing visitor congestion in the area.

How does the timed reservation system work?

Tickets can be purchased through recreation.gov in advance of your visit. Seventy percent of the timed reservations tickets will be available starting at 7:00 a.m. on April 29, 2021. The remaining reservations will be made available on a rolling basis, three days in advance of each calendar day. This will provide visitors more flexibility with short-term trip planning. The timed reservation system will continue through September 30th.

How much does a timed reservation ticket cost?

Time reservation tickets are free, however there will be a \$2 service fee charged by rec.gov for processing the reservation.

Is a timed reservation ticket required for each person visiting Ape Cave?

No, each person does not require their own timed reservation ticket if sharing a vehicle. Only one ticket is required for each vehicle visiting Ape Cave during their reserved time slot.

When can I reserve a ticket to visit Ape Cave?

Reservations are available from 9 am to 5 pm daily, May 18th through September 30th. Reservations cover a two-hour time-period. Timed ticket reservation options include:

- 9 - 11 am
- 11 am - 1 pm
- 1 - 3 pm
- 3 - 5 pm

Do I need to print my timed reservation ticket?

Visitors have two options; timed reservation tickets can be purchased on-line and printed at home or downloaded in advance to a mobile device. Both paper tickets and digital ticket downloads will be accepted at the Forest Service check in booth.

Will timed reservation tickets be available onsite?

Timed reservation tickets will not be for sale at Ape Cave, but may be purchased through recreation.gov if available, up until the first hour of a two-hour ticket window. Due to limited cellular coverage in the vicinity of Ape Cave Some cell phone users may experience poor or no reception on site. It is recommended that visitors ensure they have cellular coverage or internet access prior to their visit to purchase their timed reservation ticket online.

I have a timed reservation ticket, what other passes are required to visit Ape Cave?

In addition to a timed reservation ticket, a Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Pass, or Day Pass are required to visit Ape Cave. Passes are sold onsite, [online](#), or through [local vendors](#). Day Passes available on site for \$5, cash or check.

What amenities and services are available at Ape Cave?

- Toilets
- Lantern rentals
- Ranger-led programs, when available
- Recreation Passes sales
- Educational materials and souvenirs

I am unable get a timed reservation ticket to visit Ape Cave, what other recreational opportunities are in the area?

- Trail of Two Forests
- June Lake
- Lahar Viewpoint
- Ape Canyon
- Lava Canyon
- Blue Lake
- PacifiCorp Recreation Sites

I am not going to be able to use my reservation, what should I do?

Tickets may be cancelled up to one hour prior to a ticketed time window. Tickets that have been canceled will reappear on the reservation system, allowing other visitors the opportunity to visit Ape Cave. Please note, the \$2 reservation service fee is non-refundable.

Will the Forest Service bring in additional revenue due to this change?

No, the Forest Service will not generate additional revenue from the new, timed reservation system at Ape Cave—in fact, the Forest Service will likely collect fewer funds.

The operator of recreation.gov charges a small service fee to manage the timed reservation system, however the Forest Service does not generate revenue from these reservations. Further, with more limited numbers entering the area, a smaller amount of daily use Northwest Forest passes will be sold onsite.

Recreation pass revenue will continue to be collected at this site and used to enhance visitor services.

For more information about the Ape Cave at Mount St Helens please visit us online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/apecave>