Dispersed Camping
Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National Monument

Dispersed camping is camping outside of a designated campground. It is allowed in many areas of the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument.

There are certain areas where dispersed camping is prohibited and these areas are posted. There is no dispersed camping in the Tule Canyon along Highway 190 between Springville and Moorehouse Creek and along the Wishon Road.

Dispersed camping is free but you are **required** to have a valid **CAMPFIRE PERMIT** while dispersed camping. These can be obtained free of charge at any Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or California Department of Forestry Office. Be aware of fire restrictions, typically in forced by mid-summer, banning open fires outside of designated campgrounds. Camp stove might still be allowed but check with your local ranger station in your area.

The maximum length of time you may camp in a dispersed areas is 14 DAYS at a time and 30 DAYS in a year.

Dispersed camping is a activity enjoyed by many visitors to the forest. Each year the number of people taking advantage of dispersed recreation opportunities has increased, making it more and more essential that these areas be left clean and undamaged.

Also, keep food and all other scented items secured in your vehicle if you are not in the immediate area. Cover your ice chest with a towel or blanket at night or locked in your vehicle, for your safety and the safety of wildlife.
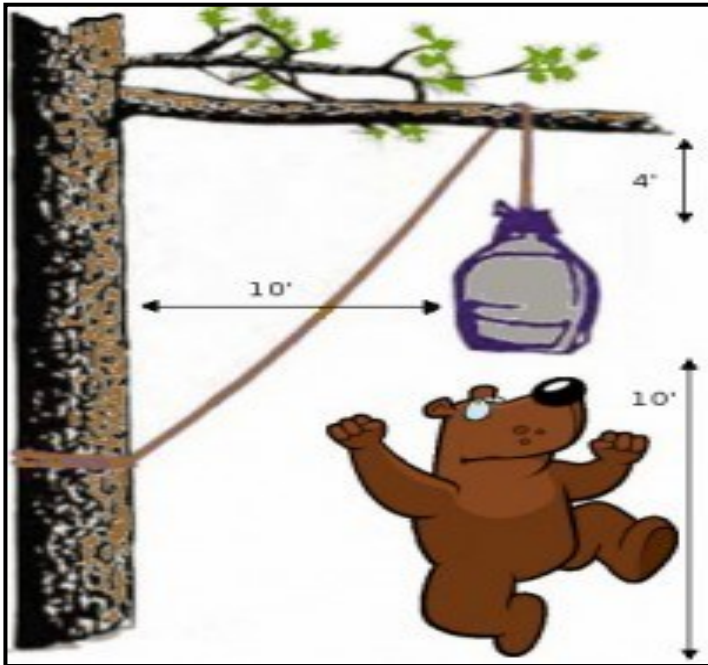
The following acts are prohibited on Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument and are subject to a fine:

1. Driving off designated roads inside the Monument.

2. Leaving campfire unattended.

3. Leaving trash buried, stashed or left in campfire ring.

4. Abandoning or leaving personal property. **PACK IT IN-PACK IT OUT.**

5. Cutting or otherwise damaging trees for use as a lean-to or a horse corral. Do not leave anything tied to trees.

6. Destruction of government property such as signs, posters, gates, trees, etc.

7. Removing forest products without a permit.

8. Discharging any firearm within 150 yards of any building, occupied area, across forest roads, or body of water.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Here are some tips to appropriate dispersed camping:

1. Protect standing trees from nails and scars from axes, knives and hatchets.

2. Use only dead and down trees for firewood.

3. Bury human waste at least six (6") inches deep and 200 feet from any waterway or trail. DO NOT bury toilet paper–PACK IT OUT

4. Wash at least 200 feet away from any water source using biodegradable soap.

5. Set up camp at least 200 feet from any waterway or trail.

6. Take a litterbag to carry out all refuse. Do not leave trash in fire rings. Do not bury trash.

7. A campfire permits is required to have a campfire, charcoal barbeque, or camp stove. Use existing fire grates or fire rings if possible. If none exist, please use the fire pit method and disassemble it after you extinguish your fire. Firewood may not be transported off of the Forest without a permit.

8. Avoid leveling or digging trenches around tents. Place tent on bare ground and not on vegetation.

9. Protect your food from the bears and other animals. Keep your food and anything with a scent stored in an airtight container in your car truck. If your vehicle has no truck, put everything on the floor, cover it with towel or blanket and close the windows. Always, Keep a clean campsite.

10. LEAVE YOUR CAMPSITE BETTER THAN WHEN YOU ARRIVED!

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
559-539-2607

Forest Supervisor's Office
220 E Morton Ave
Porterville, CA 93257
559-784-1500

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.
When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.
PACK IT IN!
PACK IT OUT!