

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Campground and Park Host Program

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Campground or Park Host with California State Parks. Now, more than ever, volunteers play a vital role in helping California State Parks provide quality visitor services and preserve California's valuable natural and cultural resources. Hosts provide services in more than 100 state parks within the 280-unit California State Parks system.

Hosts are individuals or couples who temporarily reside in a park unit campground (Camp Host), day-use area (Park Host), or other designated location, providing some of the basic operational services and information to the visiting public. Hosts usually assist with other duties including staffing at visitor centers, operation of historic sites, selling firewood, giving nature tours, and/or park maintenance.

Duration of Host Assignments

Camp host positions are not meant to provide semi-permanent homes therefore hosts may serve a maximum of six months annually in any single park unit. Some parks have established a shorter period as a maximum, depending on campground needs.

Host Hours of Service

Hosts are expected to work the minimum number of hours required for the host assignment (approximately 30 hours per week).

Who Can Host?

Residents of other states, as well as citizens of countries other than the United States may serve as hosts, provided they meet all requirements. Residents of other states must register their vehicle in California if their stay in California exceeds 6 months.

What Kind of Vehicle(s) Can I Bring?

Vehicles are limited to one residential vehicle (trailer, motor coach, or bus) and one additional motorized vehicle, as the parking area of the site allows. Some sites have additional restrictions for residential vehicle length, so you will need to contact the individual park to ensure your residential vehicle will fit.

Can I Bring My Pet(s)?

For purposes of this policy, "pets" refers to dogs and cats. Animals that remain inside the host's residence in a cage, aquarium or other container will be allowed in most cases. The allowable number of pets permitted per host site is determined by each park.

The park may prohibit or restrict pets and/or other animals present in the host site or residence, under the following circumstances:

- Resource management concerns
- Site size concerns
- Host sites located in use areas where the pets could interact with or disturb the public or neighbors.

Pets permitted in host sites shall be legally subject to city, county, and California State Parks regulations (California Code of Regulation §4312, Dogs: Animals).

How Can I Find Out About Host Opportunities and Apply?

To find out more about host opportunities at specific parks, please visit the California State Parks website: www.parks.ca.gov/camphost or contact the individual park district(s) where you would like to host.

The Host program is decentralized, and individual parks and districts select the hosts who will work in specific parks. The Volunteers in Parks Program office in Sacramento does not select or assign host positions, so all questions about openings at specific parks should be directed to park/district staff. Park district contact information is listed in the volunteer brochure and contact information for specific parks is listed on the camp host webpage.

Hosts must individually complete a State Parks Volunteer Application form and complete a background check and health questionnaire before beginning service. To apply for a host position, or to express interest in becoming a host, please submit an application to each district in which you would like to be a host.

Hosts are registered using a Volunteer Service Agreement (DPR 208), and are provided with a duty statement outlining the specific tasks for the site and host. If you are selected for a host position, training will also be provided.

The following resources and materials will help you apply for a host position:

- State Parks Volunteer Application (DPR 208H)
- “Visit a Park” section of the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/ParkIndex has additional information on each park in the California State Parks system.

For general volunteer information, please contact the Partnerships Division of California State Parks at (916) 653-9069 or vipp@parks.ca.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in California State Parks’ Host Program. We wish you many rewarding experiences as a host with California State Parks.