# Backcountry Camping on the Pine Mountain Trail in FDR State Park

## FDR/Ga State Park rules

By signing a backcountry permit, as permit holder are agreeing to follow FDR State Park and GA State parks/DNR rules to camp along the trail accordingly. ***PLEASE READ THIS HANDOUT BEFORE YOU HEAD TO A CAMPSITE.*** You are responsible for passing these along to those camping with you and for their actions at the campsite. All campsites have a named wooden sign at the access trail entrance of them. Camp/set up in the designated named campsite backcountry site (s) you have a permit for. **You must c**amp/set up tents-hammocks, within 50' of the designated fire-ring and sign. Some campsites have RED signs on perimeters reading "Don't camp beyond this sign". If you cut your trip short and cannot stay at a camp, CALL the park office and let a clerk know, or if after hours the park emergency number.. **You cannot camp at sites not on your permit**, nor change sites, unless you CALL and get ok to do so from the park office clerks DURING office hours (or call the park emergency number if you can't make it to a campsite before dark.) . You have a permit for **a *backcountry site,* meaning be prepared to carry in & out in/on your backpack all your gear, NOT make multiple trips to camp from your vehicle (multiple trips leads to leaves something at a site). NO wheeled anything allowed on trails including carts, wagons, wheeled coolers, grills, nor strollers.**

If building a campfire you must use existing designated fire-ring. 19 of 21 sites have a metal fire ring. **IF rock fire ring : Do not build a new rock one/or move it, N**o cutting of or on any standing trees/bushes of any size dead or living **Use only dead, downed wood for campfires. NOTE**: there are NO campfires allowed at Sassafrass Hill or Grindstone Gap Campsites (unless you SEE water in the nearby creek) and due to distance to limited water, not suggested at Whiskey Still Campsite. Bumble Bee Ridge Campsite is a WAYS from water, so be prepared to haul 2-3 gallons of water **777'** up the steep trail/hill to that site. Do NOT burn cans/aluminum foil (or food packets with foil liners)-glass-wax candles or plastic in campfires **as they are trash**. **Burn only wood and paper items totally.** To avoid leaving a smoldering fire: Before you leave a camp, ***drown fire with several gallons of water, stir and then drown again till no steam appears.*** All trash must be taken out and disposed of at your home (including baby diapers- female "products")

**DO NOT** build any structures (ie: lean-to, tables, tripods etc) or leave **anything** man made at a campsite. Look around camp before you leave it, for every speck of trash (including cord tied on trees.)**.** Take all trash out you make.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE: Campsite areas are checked regularly.**

If a camp is found with trash or abandoned equipment, a smoldering fire, trees hacked on or cut down**, permit holder staying at a camp last, can receive citations for actions from a DNR Enforcement Officer. . Citations generally run over $140.00 per code section violations- Citations for leaving a fire or trash/abandoned gear at a PMT backcountry campsite are based on Georgia DNR code sections: 16-7-43-** It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to dump, deposit, throw, or leave or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of litter on any public or private property in this state or any waters in this state. **391-5-1-.04 (1) (a) 8-** Ignite or attempt to ignite any fire except in places provided or designated for such purposes, under the continuous care and direction of a responsible person. All fires, and smoldering material must be completely extinguished after use. During periods of high fire danger, the park manager may issue a Fire Ban and thus stove use only. **When in effect a Ban will be noted on your permit and signs up at trailheads and posted at campsite fire rings.**

**Alcoholic beverages** of any type are **NOT** allowed in FDR State Park along the trails (including backcountry campsites) nor at roadside and trailhead picnic areas.

**NOTE:** If upon arrival at a campsite you find trash- abandoned equipment in the camp or fire smoldering/hot…**OR if someone is set up at the camp you have a permit for CALL right then FDR Rangers using** the emergency phone numbers on the back trail map which are 706-663-4256 (8-5) or 24 hours at 706-801-5006. The rangers will come and have them move out/leave so you can use the site you have permit for

## *Guidelines of campsite use etiquette*

. ***Help by LEAVING NO TRACE you have used a campsite. You can do this by following these guidelines of campsite use etiquette. These guidelines will help keep the campsites clean for next campers…***

."Go" at least 100' from camp **and COVER toilet paper with leaves.**

**You are using a backcountry backpacking campsite, so everything you bring in…. try to do so in ONE TRIP/LOAD from your vehicle! Large tents-coolers-gas grills-large folding chairs-blow up mattresses are not backpacking equipment and are left on the trail a lot. PLEASE Do not bring rocks in from nearby woods into camp for any reason. Need something to sit on if no bench,? Bring a small camp stool or small camp-chair.**

**Use small 1-2 foot long x 4 inch max wood for fires in the 30" fire rings. DO NOT drag into camp large logs nor try to burn them.** Suggested, is you use a small hand saw to saw up small dead wood found on the ground..

If you find trash at the campsite left by previous campers, please take it with you.

At any campsite PLEASE **DO NOT USE/bring charcoal or "Fire Logs" as they leave a mess that volunteers will have to clean up.** Don't leave ugly half burned wood/logs in or near the fire ring. Make sure they are cold and toss them away from camp. Leave any small unused wood stacked neatly for next campers. Have a fire at night but not in morning? **Drown the fire-ring in the morning anyway** (coals under ashes can stay hot for a couple of days.) **DON'T throw dirt on fire, USE WATER.**

**Please don't leave a compacted or bare spot where your tent or hammock was. Fluff up the leaves in the morning** where you put your tents/hammocks. This fluffing/raking back leaves on tent areas helps the area from becoming compacted. Main thing, leave a campsite in better shape than you found it. ***LEAVE NO TRACE*** you camped there includes helping the Pine Mountain Trail Association volunteers who check the campsite and clean fire rings. So PLEASE keep compaction down by NOT raking back leaves and leaving bare/compacted spots.

Backcountry camping/building a campfire where and when allowed are a privilege. Help by doing the right things all the time. READ the PMT map (especially the back FAQ section) and sections on the PMTA website about Backpacking, Frequently Asked Questions, Site Descriptions, Trail Descriptions for other information…

Please report any blown-down trees or trail situations along the trail, to the Pine Mountain Trail Association at www.pinemountaintrail.org or text photos and Google map screen-shot locations to Jim Hall 706-325-4113. The Pine Mountain Trail was built by and is maintained only by volunteers of the Pine Mountain Trail Association. A Pine Mountain Trail trash bag will be given to every backcountry permit holder ….for free……. Revised 1/15/2026

**NOTE**: Several campsites are within sight of the hiking trails. IF you see someone walking by late of a day, like right at dark….Say hi, as they may be turned around and about to be walking in the dark which is not allowed and dangerous.. Encourage them to **STOP** and call the park emergency number.

**Urgent Access Routes**: Some 18 of the 21 backcountry campsites are close/right on an Urgent Access Route. Which is a marked path that the park rangers can get a 4 wheeler into a camp in case you have an emergency (lost hurt or sick) and need to be taken out. Of those 18, 12 campsites can be reached with a side- by- side Polaris. Don't hesitate to call the park emergency number. Get to camp that you have permit for and someone there? CALL park ranger.