Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The 21-Day Rule for Camping on Crown Land

Ontario is reminding people of rules and sharing tips for the camping season.

Much of Ontario's public lands are available year-round for recreational enjoyment, including camping on Crown land.

Canadian residents can camp for free on Crown land for up to 21 days at one site in a calendar year, unless the site has been restricted for a specific reason. After 21 days, the person and camping equipment must move a minimum of 100 meters to another location. This temporary use ensures that sites are available to others and helps reduce environmental impacts.

Non-Residents are required to obtain a Crown land camping permit from the ministry, Ontario government offices, or through outside license issuers. The fee for a non-resident Crown land camping permit is $9.35 per person per day, plus the federal Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

Planning to Camp on Crown Land?

Be sure to check if camping is allowed on the public lands where you plan to camp. Rules vary from site to site.

Please act responsibly to help protect the natural environment. Here are some tips:

- Always pick up litter and take garbage with you
- Avoid sensitive features such as wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat
- Respect other users of Crown lands
- Stay on existing trails
- Do not harm, kill or collect plants, trees, habitat or wildlife you do not have permission to hunt

Before lighting a fire, check local fire warnings and restrictions in the area. Never leave a campfire unattended and make sure campfires are completely extinguished before leaving the site.

Additional Resources:

- Camping on Crown land
- Check if camping is allowed in a conservation reserve
- Camp at one of Ontario's provincial parks
- Outdoor fire rules and permits
- Check current fire restriction zones
- Contact your local ministry district office
- Contact the ministry Information Line: 1-866-667-1940.

To report a natural resources violation, call the ministry TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667 toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).