

# Blackbird State Forest



## STATE FOREST RULES AND REGULATIONS

The State Forests of Delaware are open to the public for all legal forms of recreation and enjoyment. In order that these publicly owned lands be conserved, protected, and maintained for the benefit of all, the following RULES AND REGULATIONS will be observed.

### A. General Rules and Regulations

1. No living trees, shrubs, or other vegetation may be cut, felled, uprooted, removed, or otherwise injured or destroyed, unless written permission has first been obtained from the forest officer in charge.
2. Fires are prohibited for any purpose on State Forest lands other than in designated areas. Written permission must be obtained in advance for fires on State Forest lands outside of designated areas. Any such authorized fire must, at all times, be under the direct supervision and care of a competent adult, and must be thoroughly extinguished before the fire site is abandoned.
3. The dumping or depositing of rubbish, trash, household items, or other debris, and the placing of advertisement signs within State Forests are prohibited.
4. For the sake of sanitation and attractiveness, persons using public camp and picnic sites are required to deposit all waste paper, tin cans and other refuse in the containers, if provided. Where containers are not provided, users must properly dispose of all refuse off State Forest lands.
5. Writing upon, mutilating, carving, and otherwise defacing trees, buildings, structures, signs, and official notices is prohibited.
6. All State Forest boundaries are well-marked with metal signs, yellow paint on boundary line trees, brushed-out paths or with a combination of all three features. Therefore, boundary lines should be easy to identify. State Forest visitors should avoid trespass or encroachment upon adjoining private lands by staying within boundaries of State Forest lands.
7. Many roads have been closed to vehicular travel to improve the quality of recreation and to reduce littering. These roads and trails are open to pedestrian and non-vehicular travel only. Furthermore, no off-highway vehicles or all-terrain vehicles, either registered or non-registered, are permitted. The only exception to this rule applies to those off-highway vehicles owned, operated, and/or authorized by the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Violators will be prosecuted for trespassing.
8. With the exception of animals permitted under lawful hunting regulations, all animals must be under the continuous control of the owner(s) unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Forestry Administrator. All dogs must be leashed, unless covered by the exception above. State Forest visitors are responsible for the conduct and any damages, either personal or property, caused by their animals.
9. Entry to State Forest lands is prohibited from sunset to sunrise, except for lawful hunting, permitted camping, or as otherwise permitted in writing by the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service.
10. Fishing on state forest lands is limited to catch and release only.

### B. Camping Rules and Regulations

1. A forest use permit is required for all camping on State Forest lands. Camping is free of charge, year round, restricted to map-designated campsites. Permits are available at the State Forest office during office hours or from the information box.
2. Campsites are on a first-come/ first serve basis. Reservations may be accepted for special occasions.
3. Campsites are of a primitive type, and are to be used **ONLY** for tent, van or pickup campers. Travel trailers and or self-propelled motor homes are excluded due to access and parking limitations.
4. There are a limited number of campsites, each is large enough to accommodate large families. These are equipped with tables, fire pits, charcoal grills and a trash barrel. Campsites are limited to a maximum number of 25 people per site, with a maximum stay of three nights per week.
5. Camping is at your own risk. There is no after-hours, nighttime or weekend security. Law enforcement is provided by the Delaware State Police should the need arise.
6. Common sense security is your responsibility at all times. The forest is a public use area without 24-hour protection.
7. State forests are "multiple-use facilities", which means other activities will continue while you camp. These activities include: hunting, picnicking, hiking, orienteering, nature study, horseback riding, firewood cutting (by permit only), and timber harvesting. The DDA Forest Service reserves the right to limit or deny permits during times of conflicting use.
8. Firewood for camp use is available at the campsites. If more firewood is needed, it may be gathered locally from dead and downed trees. No standing trees or shrubs are to be cut. Using firewood located at the office complex is prohibited. Campfires are to be in established fire rings only.
9. Pets are permitted, but must be under control or leashed.
10. Campsites are to be left clean for the next users, and all fires are to be extinguished before departing from the area.