

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

# Camping

Forbes State Forest

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This District Office is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. The office can be contacted by telephone, regular mail, or email. Forest Rangers patrol the State Forest off-hours, weekends, and holidays, as well as during the week.

All-terrain vehicles, trail bikes, etc. are NOT permitted in the Forbes State Forest. State Forest visitors who encounter these uses and can provide information that will help us in this effort are encouraged to contact the District Office.

The staff of the Forbes State Forest is constantly trying to improve and increase your recreational opportunities. We take your recreational experience at Forbes very seriously. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

**Follow all Leave No Trace principles for camping and shared use of trails, visit <https://lnt.org>**

### For more information



Check out 'Forbes State Forest' on Facebook!

Bureau of Forestry  
Forbes Forest District 4  
1291 Route 30, P.O. Box 519  
Laughlintown, PA 15655-0519

Tele: (724) 238-1200 • Email: [FD04@pa.gov](mailto:FD04@pa.gov)  
Website: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/forbes/index.htm>

**In the event of an emergency, contact a state forest employee or dial 911.**

**If you become lost: stop, stay calm, stay put, & dial 911. The further you walk the longer it will take to find you.**



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Revised 3/2016

## CAMPING DEFINED

- **Primitive Camping**—Camping where all equipment is transported in one trip by a non-motorized methods, and where a motor vehicle is not located near or part of the camping experience.
- **Motorized Camping**—Camping in or near a vehicle, where the vehicle continues to be used for storage or transportation.
- **Group Camping**—Primitive or Motorized Camping with more than ten persons. This requires written permission from the District Forester.

## FORBES STATE FOREST

Pennsylvania contains about 17 million acres of forestland. Of this total, over two million acres are in the state forest system, which is publicly owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry.

The Forbes State Forest comprises over 60,000 acres located in Westmoreland, Somerset and Fayette Counties. This area within the Laurel and Chestnut Ridges is often called the Laurel Highlands.

State Forests provide clean water, recreation, habitat for plants and animals, places to enjoy the tranquility of nature, and produce some of the most valuable timber in the world.

The elevation ranges between 1,500 feet above sea level to 3,213 feet at Mt. Davis in Somerset County—the highest point in Pennsylvania. These elevation changes can cause quite different weather conditions throughout the forest. Changes can and do occur quite rapidly during the year, and forest visitors should be prepared. Higher elevations are usually snow covered by mid-November and may remain that way until April.

## APPLICATION FOR CAMPING PERMIT

MAIL TO DISTRICT OFFICE, OR EMAIL US AT [FD04@PA.GOV](mailto:FD04@PA.GOV)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMERGENCY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF CAMPING (CIRCLE): MOTORIZED PRIMITIVE GROUP

DATES FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CAMPER(S) IN GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

(10 OR MORE IN GROUP REQUIRES WRITTEN LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION)

## MOTORIZED CAMPING GUIDELINES

- Camping is permitted at **designated sites only**—refer to the attached map.
- Camping permit is required, must be displayed at the site or be in possession at all times. Permits are issued on a first-come first-served basis, not prior to 90 days in advance.
- Due to limited sites, one permit/month limit.
- Sites available from April 2 to last day of regular rifle deer season.
- Camping ‘week’ runs from Friday to following Thursday for those staying a full weekend, or 7 consecutive days.
- Camping ‘day’ runs noon to the following noon.
- No more than 2 vehicles, and no more than 10 people, allowed at the site.
- Dead and downed wood may be gathered and burned when permitted, but may not be removed from the site. Power tools and chain saws are not permitted.
- Small campfires are permitted in the designated fire ring, when adequate precautions are taken to prevent spread of fire into the forest, except as noted below.
- Open fires are prohibited when the forest fire danger is determined by the District Forester to be High, Very High, or Extreme—and from March 1 through May 25, without authorization from the District Forester. **This prohibition does not apply to self-contained camp stoves used in a safe manner.**
- All trash must be removed from the Forbes State Forest.

## MOTORIZED CAMPING (CONTINUED)

- No facilities such as water pumps, showers, utility hookups or bathrooms are available.
- No human or animal waste is permitted in or near designated sites. All waste must be stored and removed using a holding tank, portable toilet or other means. There are no disposal sites on the Forbes State Forest.
- No nails in trees, or damage to any vegetation will be permitted.
- All strings, rope, wire, etc. must be removed prior to leaving.
- Sites are not maintained for snow removal.

## AREAS CLOSED TO CAMPING

- Roaring Run Natural Area and Mt. Davis Natural Area.
- The area east of Laurel Summit Road and north of Coxes Creek Road.
- Blue Hole, along Blue Hole Road.
- Falls Run, along Falls Run Road.
- Cole Run Falls, along Cole Run Road.
- Pine Knob overlook.
- Within 300 feet of Leased Campsites.
- Within 300 feet of a State Forest Picnic Area: Lick Hollow and Mt. Davis.
- Any other area posted against camping.

## PRIMITIVE CAMPING GUIDELINES

- Camping permit required only if staying more than one night at a site (see section on camping permits).
- Camping must be a minimum of 100 feet from any stream or open water source.
- Camp sites must be at least 200 feet from and out of sight of roads and parking areas, and 25 feet and out of site of the nearest edge of a trail.
- Field privies must be at least 200 feet from a lake, stream, spring, or other open water source—and all human waste must be buried a minimum of 6 inches.
- All trash must be carried out of the forest.
- All stone fire rings must be scattered.
- **No group camping is permitted without written permission of the District Forester.**
- Regulations for campfires are the same as those for Motorized Camping, except that there are no designated fire rings.

## HORSES

- Tether lines must be used when horses are kept on site. Horses may NOT be tied directly to trees or shrubs.
- Horses may not be tied in or near streams or other water sources.
- Manure must be removed from all designated Motorized Camping sites, and all parking areas.
- Manure must be scattered in the woods at least 100 feet from all Primitive Camping sites.

## CAMPING PERMITS

- Camping permits are free, and may be obtained from the District Office during normal working hours.
- They are required for all Motorized Camping (you can fill out an online application from DCNR’s website).
  - Permits for Primitive Camping are required only for stays more than one night at any campsite. **However, all campers are encouraged to obtain a permit.** Should a camper become lost or overdue, a permit provides the district staff with a location to start looking for them. The permit also helps the district staff locate the camper in an emergency.
  - Camping permits will be valid for no more than 7 consecutive nights, then the campsite must be vacated for 48 hours, and all vehicles and equipment removed from State Forest land.
  - Camping permits will not be issued to anyone under the age of 18.



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rules and Regulations for state forests are found in Title 17 of the PA Code—Part 1(DCNR), Subpart C (State Forests), Chapter 21 (General Provisions). They are available online, by posting, and on request.

## SITE 1

**Directions:** Route 30 to Laurel Summit Road, take Laurel Summit Road 5 miles, make right turn onto JE Miller Road, proceed to gate, go through gate 4/10ths mile, site is on left side of road. 40° 7' 49.7598"/79° 10' 55.3038"

**Special Instructions:** You must have a combination to get through gate on JE Miller Rd. Gate must be closed and locked each time you pass through.



## SITE 2

**Directions:** Route 30 to Laurel Summit Road, Laurel Summit Road 6 miles to Hickory Flats Road, 1 mile to Zufall Trail, make left on Zufall Trail, site is 1/10th mile on left, just before gate. 40° 6' 30.8262"/79° 11' 46.3776"

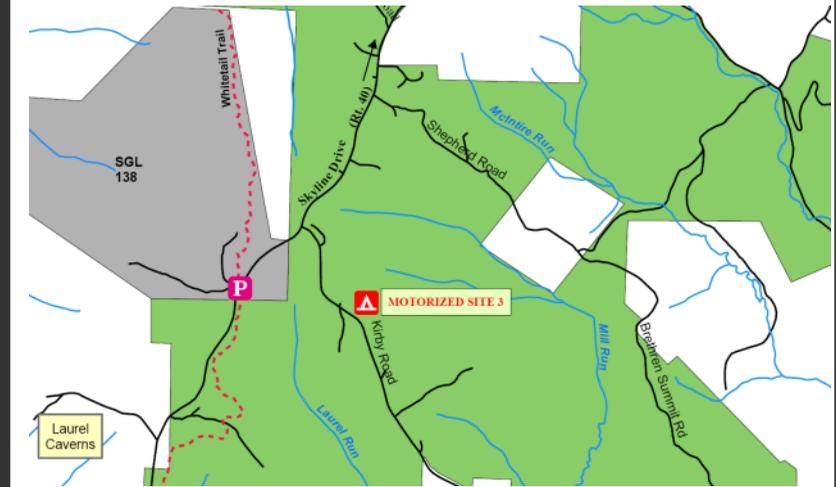
**Special Instructions:** Gate and trail must be unobstructed at all times.



## SITE 3

**Directions:** Route 40 to Skyline Drive, 3.3 miles make left on Kirby Road, go 9/10ths mile, site is on left side of road. 39° 48' 8.0346"/79° 40' 42.5814"

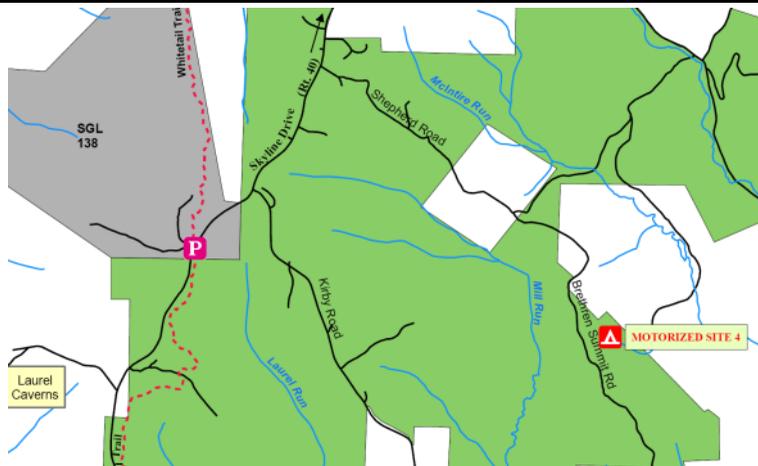
**Special Instructions:** Kirby Road is a township road, be careful turning into and pulling out of site. Keep all vehicles off of Kirby Road.



## SITE 4

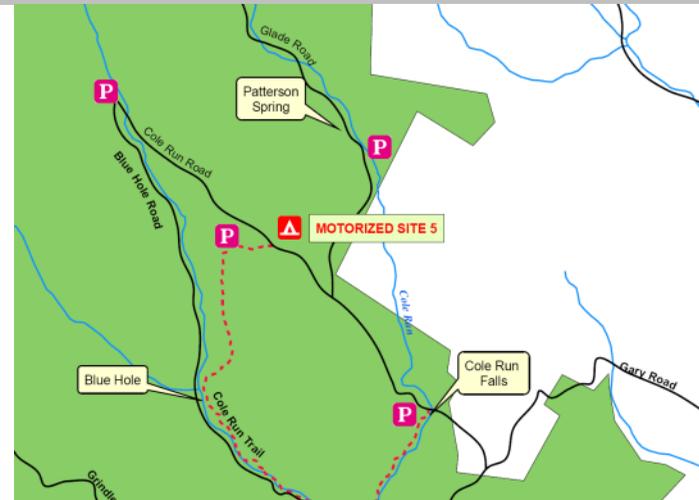
**Directions:** Route 40 to Wharton Furnace Road, go 2.5 miles make right on Shepard Road, go 1.5 miles make left on Brethren Summit Road, go 1.4 miles site is on your left. 39° 47' 26.196"/79° 38' 27.582"

**Special Instructions:** Brethren Summit Road is a narrow, gravel, township road. Use caution.



## SITE 5

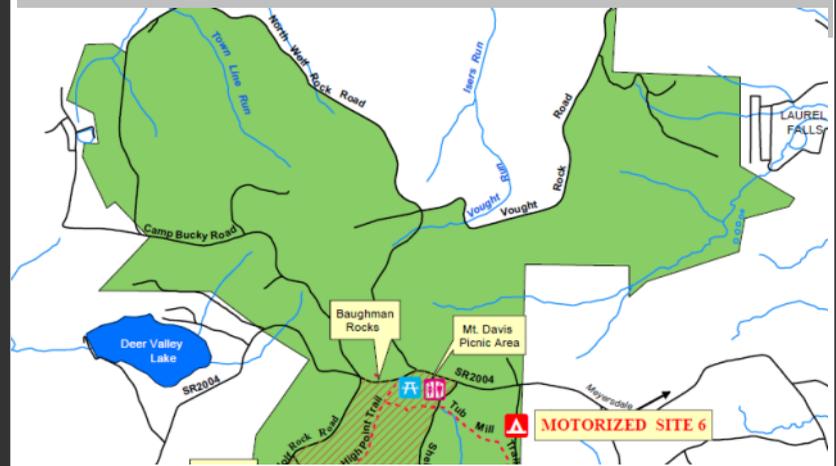
**Directions:** Route 31 (Bakersville), south on Trent Road, about 2.75 miles turn right on Copper Kettle Highway, a little over a mile to Trent and make left on Barron Chuch Road, go about 1.25 miles and make right on Gary Road, go 2 miles and make right on Cole Run Road, site is about 1 mile on right—1/4 mile past Glade Road. 39° 58' 58.0116", 79° 17' 45.3942"



## SITE 6

**Directions:** From Mt. Davis Picnic Area east on SR2004, 4/10 of a mile east of Shelter Rock Road, entrance road is on right. 39° 47' 29.4426"/79° 9' 18.645"

**Special Instructions:** You must have a combination to get through the gate on. Gate must be closed and locked each time you pass through.



# Forbes State Forest

## Designated Motorized Camping Sites

