



**Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation  
Cape Henlopen State Park  
Biden Environmental Center  
15099 Cape Henlopen Drive  
Lewes, DE 19958  
Phone 302-644-5005  
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***PRIMITIVE CAMPING RULES AND REGULATIONS and  
GENERAL INFORMATION***

- Thank you for your recent inquiry about Primitive Camping at Cape Henlopen State Park. Our Primitive Camping area is open year-round, by reservation to organized youth groups. Reservations will be accepted beginning the first working day of the year for that calendar year.
- **A maximum of 80 people will be permitted in the Primitive Camping Area at one time.** Site selection is on a first-come, first-served basis. **Motor homes and trailers are not permitted.** Tent camping is the only form of camping allowed in this area. The Primitive Campground is limited to groups ages 17 (or high school age) and under. **Youth-to-adult ratio may be no more than 4 to 1.** Exceptions to this rule apply to organized groups with rules that dictate a smaller ratio, or special needs groups. Please contact the Biden Center for questions and any exceptions.
- In the Primitive Area, you will find portable toilets, a centralized water spigot, a charcoal grill and a small pavilion. There are picnic tables and fire rings scattered throughout the campground. There are no shower facilities at this site. The Beach Bathhouse may be used for showering during summer months, 8 a.m. to sunset.
- Cape Henlopen State Park is a carry-in, carry-out facility. It is up to the individual group to dispose of non-recyclables outside of the park. There are recycle bins available at the front of the park for patron use.
- Groups are held responsible for any losses or damages to park equipment and property.
- Dogs and pets are prohibited in the Primitive Camping Area.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Primitive Camping Area.
- Vehicles must be parked in the designated Primitive Camping Area parking lot. Parking on the grass is not allowed. Parking spaces are limited; it is recommended that groups carpool as much as possible.
- Groups must cross the beach dunes at designated pedestrian pathways only.

- **Effective immediately:** all groups must purchase or use firewood from Sussex County, Delaware in order to slow the infestation of the emerald ash borer and other harmful insects. Firewood may be purchased from the park Family Campground registration booth, as well as other local venues.
- A temporary reservation will be made only upon receipt of an application. The **non-refundable deposit** of **\$20** for Delaware groups and **\$40** for out-of-state groups must be sent with the application or be received within one week of receipt of the application in order to secure a reservation. If the deposit is not sent by the appropriate date, the reservation will be cancelled.
- A group may cancel a reservation, or decrease number of nights or number of attendees by notifying the Biden Center Office **in writing** up to two weeks prior to the scheduled date of arrival. The deposit is non-refundable. If a group fails to cancel in writing before the day of the reservation, it will be required to pay the entire camping fee. **The group is required to contact the Biden Center in the event that the number of attendees has decreased, or to request to increase number of attendees.**
- The Primitive Camping fee is **\$3** per person, per night **for any number of campers over the deposit minimum of \$20 or \$40 accordingly**, payable to Cape Henlopen State Park upon arrival. **If the group will be arriving after normal office hours, contact the Biden Center to arrange payment in advance or during the stay. If the park sends an invoice, there will be an extra \$10 administrative fee added to the total fee.**
- During the fee season (March 1 through November 30), car passes will be issued at the time of arrival. **(one car pass per five people).**
- The Seaside Nature Center is available to schedule educational programs throughout the year. Advance reservations for programs, walks and talks are suggested. Please call the Seaside Nature Center at **(302) 645-6852** for further programming information. Any group planning to do any programs on its own after dark must request permission in writing prior to camping.
- Any groups interested in performing a volunteer activity during their visit may contact the park's volunteer coordinator at the Biden Center.