



Pinecrest Lake Basin Recreation Complex Summit Ranger District

ROG 16-53-03 12/2019



Pinecrest Lake is located about 30 miles east of Sonora on State Highway 108 within the Stanislaus National Forest. The Basin is forested with a mixture of pine, fir and cedar trees, although there are a few willows and scattered brush.

No private property is located within the basin. All facilities, including campgrounds, are operated under special use permits.

PG&E maintains the water rights to the small reservoir that is Pinecrest Lake. The lake is surrounded by a four-mile National Recreation Trail. The speed limit for watercraft is 20 mph on the lake; the speed limit reduces to 5 mph near the marina, boat launch dock and swimming areas. No personal jet skis are permitted on the lake.



The campgrounds and day-use area are usually open in time for the start of fishing season, which is the last Saturday in April and remain open until mid-October. Although the campgrounds are closed during the winter months and the day-use area is without piped drinking water, visitors are welcome to enjoy snow play activities, winter camping and cross-country skiing. Roads into the Basin are regularly plowed during the winter months. Two restrooms, including one that is fully accessible, have been winterized and remain open during the cold months.

Campgrounds

Pinecrest

This campground has 200 camp sites, each of which has a metal stove or fireplace and a table. Roads and parking spurs are paved. Water hydrants serve several sites. All restrooms have flush toilets and sinks. All restrooms, except for three in "D" loop, have electricity for lights and electrical appliances. Some restrooms are fully accessible.

You may make reservations up to 240 days in advance of your anticipated arrival. Plan early! This campground fills up fast in the summer. You must have a reservation if you intend to camp at Pinecrest between Memorial Day and Labor Day. If cancellations occur, campers may have the opportunity to use the sites without prior reservation.

Pioneer Trails

This facility is a group campground with three reservable sites. Two sites have 50-person limits and the largest campground can host up to 100 persons. Toilets are vault-style with septic tanks underground. Each site has pedestal grills, fire rings, several tables (including a food preparation table) and several water faucets. Each site has a paved parking area for 10, 15 or 25 vehicles, depending on the size of the RVs or vehicles. A one-mile trail leads from the campground to the Pinecrest Lake Basin and day-use area.

Pinecrest and Pioneer Trails campgrounds are available by reservation only. Sites are booked online at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777.

Meadowview

This campground has 100 sites. No reservations are taken. Campers are welcomed on a first-come, first-served basis. This facility has flush toilets, electricity in all restrooms, a table and a metal stove at each campsite and paved parking pads which vary in length. Water is piped to faucets located throughout the campground.





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Pinecrest Day-Use Area

This area is on the southwest shore of Pinecrest Lake. There are three beach areas within a designated swimming area, marked prominently with a rope and buoys. There is an accessible fishing pier and two fully accessible restrooms. No dogs are allowed in the day-use area between May 15 and September 15.

More than 50 picnic tables are available. Pedestal grills with hot charcoal containers are positioned by the tables. No overnight boat storage is allowed anywhere in the day-use area.

Pinecrest Lake Basin facilities

The Pinecrest Basin Commercial Center offers a store, a restaurant, a post office, fee showers and a sports shop. Next to the commercial center is the

Litter

Volunteer groups occasionally arrive to help keep the basin spruced up during the summer season. The sad fact is that it's not nearly enough against the sheer numbers of visitors to the basin each year. We need the help of ALL visitors to ensure that the basin remains a beautiful place. Dispose of trash only in appropriate receptacles. If you brought it with you, take it with you when you leave. If you see litter, pick it up and keep Pinecrest beautiful.

Other Permittees

Other permittees include several organized camps in the basin: Camp Blue & Gold, Camp Oski, the Pinecrest Chalet, Camp Chinquapin and Camp Sylvester. Some of these camps may be rented by the public.



Pinecrest Lake Resort, which has tennis courts and bicycle rentals. A snack bar is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

The Pinecrest marina offers boat rentals, bait sales, party and paddleboat rentals and a limited number of boat slips available for rent. Next to the marina is the Forest Service public boat ramp.

There is an RV dump station on Hwy 108, about a quarter mile from the turnoff to Pinecrest Lake. The dump station is next to the Tuolumne County Transfer Station. Pinecrest campers may use facilities without at no charge, but others are asked to leave a small fee.

Trails

Two interpretive trails, the Trail of the Survivors and Shadow of the Me-Wok Trail, are easy trails suitable for families with small children.

The four-mile National Recreation Trail circles the lake. Portions of the trail are steep. There is one vault toilet on the north side of the lake. Bicycles are not allowed on the trail. Dogs must be leashed according to Tuolumne County law.

For more information about recreation in the Stanislaus National Forest, contact either of these Forest Service locations:

Forest Supervisor's Office
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

Summit Ranger District
#1 Pinecrest Lake Road
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434

