

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST CEDAR CREEK FALLS



Cedar Creek Falls Visitor Use Permit Questions and Answers

Why is the Forest Service requiring visitors to obtain a visitor use permit to visit Cedar Creek Falls?

The Forest Service is requiring a visitor use permit to visit Cedar Creek Falls to address a variety of environmental and social issues that have resulted from busy periods of visitation at this site in the past.

Who needs to obtain a visitor use permit?

All visitors to Cedar Creek Falls and its immediate vicinity need to obtain a visitor use permit.

Hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians who would like to use the San Diego River Gorge Trail and/or Eagle Peak Road (Trail) are not be required to obtain a visitor use permit so long as they do not enter the permit area.

Where can I obtain a visitor use permit?

Visitor use permits must be obtained from the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). Visitor use permits can be reserved online at www.recreation.gov or by toll-free phone at 1-877-444-6777.

How much does a visitor use permit cost? How is the fee for the visitor use permit used?

A visitor use permit costs \$6. The fee for the visitor use permit is an administrative fee retained by NRRS for the administration of the visitor use permit reservation system. This administrative fee is not retained by the Forest Service.

How many people can be included on a single visitor use permit?

Up to five people can be included on a visitor use permit. Groups that include more than six people would need to obtain more than one visitor use permit.

What if more than five people want to visit Cedar Creek Falls together? Can one person reserve more than one visitor use permit?

A single visitor use permit allows up to five people visit Cedar Creek Falls. If a group of more than five wants to visit Cedar Creek Falls the group will have to obtain more than one visitor use permit. A single person can reserve more than one visitor use permit in order to accommodate groups larger than five so long as additional visitor use permits are available. Visitor use permits are available for reservation on a first-come first-served basis.

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Do all members of a group of up to five visitors need to be listed on the visitor use permit?

Yes. Each member of a group of up to five visitors must be listed on the visitor use permit by name. All members of the group must carry a government-issued photo identification unless they are dependent minors under the age of 16 and with their parents.

What if I change my plans after reserving my visitor use permit?

After reserving your visitor use permit you will be able to make changes to the members of your group until you print your visitor use permit. You will only be able to print your visitor use permit within two weeks of your planned visit.

You are not able to obtain a refund of your \$6 reservation fee from NRRS or change the date of your reservation if you are unable to visit Cedar Creek Falls on the day of your reservation. In the future it is possible that NRRS may allow changes in the date for your reservation at no additional cost so long as visitor use permits are still available on the day of your desired visit.

How many visitor use permits will be available each day?

Initially 75 visitor use permits will be available each day. The number of visitor use permits available per day will be adjusted up or down every three months based on environmental monitoring in order to ensure a balance between continued public access to Cedar Creek Falls and environmental conditions, the Forest Service will not decrease the number of visitor use permits issued below 30. There is no maximum cap on the number of visitor use permits that could be issued if environmental conditions remained consistent with the monitoring metrics.

When will visitor use permits be available for reservation?

Visitor use permits will be available for reservation starting April 5, 2013. Aside from this initial implementation of the Visitor Use Permit System, permits will be available for reservation for the upcoming calendar year on December 26 of each year. For example, reservations will open for 2014 beginning on December 26, 2013. So long as visitor use permits are available, visitor use permits can be reserved on the day of your visit.

Is the visitor use permit a parking permit?

No. The visitor use permit is not a parking permit. All visitors who enter the Cedar Creek Falls permit area must be listed on a visitor use permit. Visitors must also have their visitor use permit and government-issued photo identification on their person. Only dependent minors under the age of 16 who are present with their parents do not need to carry photo identification.

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How will the visitor use permit prevent forest visitors from parking on County public roadways?

The visitor use permit will not prevent forest visitors from parking on County public roadways because the Forest Service does not have the jurisdictional authority to manage parking or traffic on County roads. Despite requests, the County has decided not to exert their authority to limit parking on these County public roads at this time. However, the Forest Service assumes that by limiting the number of people allowed to visit Cedar Creek Falls on a given day, issues pertaining to parking and traffic on County public roadways will be lessened ([or] reduced compared to the past) than in the past.

Will the parking spaces at the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead be reserved for visitors to Cedar Creek Falls that have obtained a visitor use permit?

No. The parking spaces at the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead will not be reserved for visitors to Cedar Creek Falls that have obtained a visitor use permit. This trailhead, including the parking area, is for the use of all forest visitors regardless of their destination.

Does the visitor use permit allow me to consume alcohol and jump from the cliffs at Cedar Creek Falls?

The visitor use permit does not allow visitors to consume alcohol or jump from the cliffs at Cedar Creek Falls. Instead, it grants access to the permit area surrounding the falls. The possession and consumption of alcohol remains prohibited in this area and the cliffs surrounding Cedar Creek Falls remain closed to public access (climbing on and jumping from the rocks and cliffs surrounding the falls is prohibited).

What if I enter the permit area without obtaining a visitor use permit?

Any person entering the permit area without obtaining a visitor use permit will be subject to a \$75 fine and must leave the permit area.

What if I am listed on a visitor use permit but do not carry my ID with me?

Any visitor entering the permit area without government-issued identification, even if they are listed on a visitor use permit, will be subject to a \$75 fine and must leave the permit area.

For more information on the Cedar Creek Falls Visitor Use Permit Area, please contact the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest at 760-788-0250.