

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
YOUTH CAMPGROUNDS**

The Winnebago County Forest Preserve District provides five youth campgrounds. The campgrounds provide access roads, hand pump, fire rings, and pit restrooms. A diversity of recreation opportunities including fishing, ball fields and hiking trails are found nearby. Reservations by special permit are accepted for any of the five youth campgrounds by calling the District office. Overnight camping is not permitted outside designated areas.

PECATONICA RIVER 466 acres
14960 Brick School Road, Pecatonica, IL 61063

This camping area is located along the river in the Pecatonica River Forest Preserve. Large trees shape and shade the campsites. A boat launch for small boats and canoes provides access to the Pecatonica River. The campground is located four miles northeast of Pecatonica and 12 miles northwest of Rockford, offering easy access to activities at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. The youth camp can accommodate up to 500 campers.

SEWARD BLUFFS 482 acres
16999 Comly Road, Seward, IL 61077
Purchased in 1930, this preserve is one of the most serene and pleasant areas in the County. The preserve is bisected by Grove Creek, which has high limestone bluffs on its north and south sides. Located just off Highway 20, Seward Bluffs is two miles south of Pecatonica and the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. The campground is located in the north end of the preserve among large oak and hickory trees. The youth camp can accommodate up to 250 campers.

SUGAR RIVER 529 acres
10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, IL 61024

Most of the developed portion of this preserve is built on a large sand terrace overlooking the Sugar River. Purchased in 1925, workers in the Public Works Administration program built stone walls and the picturesque Riverview Shelterhouse. A shower house is available for campers using the regular campground and not for youth campers. Canoes can be launched near the camping area or from an area downriver. A scenic hiking trail loop meanders through this unique preserve and takes the hiker through a variety of natural features. The campground is on a hill and surrounded by woods. The youth camp can accommodate up to 100 campers.

HONONEGAH 228 acres
#80 Hononegah Road, Rockton, IL 61072

Purchased in 1924, the preserve is located on the north bank of the Rock River and bisected by Dry Run Creek. The preserve was once a camping area of Stephen Mack, the County's first permanent white settler, and Hononegah, his Native American wife. Upon entering the preserve, campers will enjoy the drive over the Rainbow Bridge and up into the cool maple grove. A launch for fishing boat access to the Rock River is available. The campground is located 2 miles from antique shopping in downtown Rockton and the Macktown Golf Course. Campground is along the river surrounded by large silver maple trees. The youth camp can accommodate up to 60 campers.

ROCKFORD ROTARY 210 acres
5390 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Located three miles east of New Milford on Rotary Road. Mostly in natural reserve. There

is a primitive cabin with fireplace that accommodates 30 but has no running water or electricity. The youth camp can accommodate up to 400 with two toilets, and one hand pump.

POLICIES AND RULES

Application for a grounds use certificate for a youth group camping area will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis at the Forest Preserve District Office. Reservations will be taken year round.

FEES - YOUTH CAMPING RATES	
50 or less people	\$15.00 per weekend reservation
Over 50 people	\$25.00 per weekend reservation

- The organized youth camping area at Pecatonica River Forest Preserve may be reserved for military training overnight.
- Tentative reservations will be held for two weeks only. If completed reservation form is not received within that period the reservation may be given to another party.
- An adult only (18 years old or over) may apply for a permit. A group composed of up to twenty (20) juniors must be supervised by a minimum of three (3) adults, and above this figure a ration of one adult to not more than every ten (10) juniors must be observed.
- The adult in whose name the certificate is issued accepts responsibility for the condition of the camping area upon conclusion of the activity. Leaving the area in an unreasonable state of disorder where excessive clean-up is necessary may result in the revocation of the reservation privileges of the responsible individuals and/or organization.
- Campers should respect neighbor's property and belongings.

POLICIES AND RULES continued

- The permit must be in possession of the group during the camp-out and must be exhibited upon request by any forest preserve or law enforcement officer.
- Cooking or other fires may be built only at established sites unless permission otherwise is obtained from the preserve staff.
- Rubbish or garbage must be wrapped and then placed in the waste receptacles. All campsites shall be cleaned of refuse before leaving.
- Destroying, damaging, pruning or transplanting any trees, shrubs, flowers or other plants is unlawful. This rule applies in particular to the misguided use of knives and hatchets in cutting down branches and in felling young trees.
- No beer or other liquor is allowed on camp-outs that are sponsored by an organization and are attended by individuals who are younger than twenty-one (21) years of age. Sponsoring organization and/or responsible individuals must adhere to the FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT POLICY REGARDING USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON DISTRICT PROPERTIES.
- It is the responsibility of the person(s) making a reservation to be familiar with the Forest Preserve District GENERAL USE REGULATION ORDINANCE and the current FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT RESERVATION POLICY STATEMENT, copies of which are available at the District Office.
- All youth area gates or cables over roadways should be locked behind you.

PROTECT THE FLORA AND FAUNA

The very name "Preserve" implies protection and freedom from harm. It is therefore unlawful to hunt, collect or injure any tree, shrub, flower, or wildlife. Fish, the only exception, may be taken in accordance with state regulations.

WATER SAFETY

Life preservers are required for boating on the rivers. Swimming is prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION

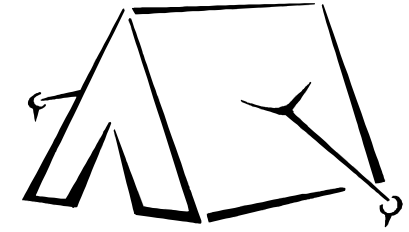
All visitors are subject to provisions of the Forest Preserve District "General Use Regulations" adopted 3-23-2000. A violation of any of these regulations may result in the revocation of privileges of the responsible individual(s). A copy of these regulations is available on request and/or posted on the general information boards located in the preserves.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

During the summer season, insect and tick repellents are a must. **To contact campers in emergencies call (815) 282-2600.**

For free maps and more information, call the District office at (815) 877-6100. Maps also accessible at www.wcfpd.org.

Campers are prohibited from bringing in their own firewood.



YOUTH CAMPING



**WINNEBAGO
COUNTY
FOREST
PRESERVE
DISTRICT**



**5500 Northrock Drive
Rockford, IL 61103
(815) 877-6100
www.wcfpd.org
e-mail wcfpd@wcfpd.org**

Our Mission

To assure the public access to permanent natural lands and areas for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation and education.

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