

571—61.4(461A) Camping.

61.4(1) Fees. Camping fees shall be set by the department pursuant to 561—Chapter 16.

61.4(2) Varying fees. Rescinded IAB 4/10/19, effective 5/15/19.

61.4(3) Procedures for camping registration.

a. Registration.

(1) Registration of walk-in campers occupying nonreservable campsites or unrented, reservable campsites will be on a first-come, first-served basis and will be handled by a self-registration process. Registration forms will be provided by the department. Campers shall, within one-half hour of arrival at the campground, complete the registration form, place the appropriate fee or number of camping tickets in the envelope and place the envelope in the depository provided by the department. One copy of the registration form must then be placed in the campsite holder provided at the campsite. The camping length of stay identified on the camping registration form must begin with the actual date the camper registers, pays and posts the registration at the campsite.

(2) Park staff shall complete the registration of campers with reservations and place the registration in the campsite holder no later than one hour prior to check-in time on the day of the camper's arrival.

b. Campsites are considered occupied and registration for a campsite shall be considered complete when the requirements of 61.4(3) "a" have been met.

c. Campsite registration must be in the name of a person 18 years of age or older who will occupy the camping unit on that site for the full term of the registration.

61.4(4) Organized youth group campsite registration.

a. Registration procedures for organized youth group campsites shall be governed by paragraphs "a," "b" and "c" of 61.4(3).

b. Chaperoned, organized youth groups may choose to occupy campsites not designated as organized youth group campsites. However, the group is subject to rules in 61.4(1), 61.4(3) and 61.4(5) pertaining to the campsite the group wishes to occupy, as well as all fees as set by the department pursuant to 561—Chapter 16.

61.4(5) Restrictions on campsite/campground use. This subrule sets forth conditions of public use which apply to all state parks and recreation areas. Specific areas as listed in 61.4(6), 571—61.7(461A) and 571—61.10(461A) are subject to additional restrictions or exceptions. The conditions in this subrule are in addition to specific conditions and restrictions set forth in Iowa Code chapter 461A.

a. Camping is restricted to designated camping areas within state parks and recreation areas and state forest campgrounds.

b. No more than six persons shall occupy a campsite except for the following:

(1) Families that exceed six persons may be allowed on one campsite if all members are immediate family and cannot logically be split to occupy two campsites.

(2) Campsites which are designated as chaperoned, organized youth group campsites.

c. Camping is restricted to one basic unit per site except that a small tent or hammock may be placed on a site with the basic unit. The area occupied by the small tent shall be no more than eight feet by ten feet, and the tent shall hold no more than four people.

d. Each camping group shall utilize only the electrical outlet fixture designated for its particular campsite. No extension cords or other means of hookup shall be used to furnish electricity from one designated campsite to another.

e. Each camping group will be permitted to park one motor vehicle not being used for camping purposes at the campsite. Unless otherwise posted, one additional vehicle may be parked at the campsite.

f. All motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles, not covered by the provision in 61.4(5) "e" shall be parked in designated extra-vehicle parking areas.

g. Walk-in campers occupying nonreservable campsites or unrented, reservable campsites shall register as provided in subrule 61.4(3) within one-half hour of entering the campground.

h. Campers occupying nonreservable campsites shall vacate the campground or register for the night prior to 3 p.m. daily. Registration can be for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights for nonreservable campsites. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park

or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department program.

i. Walk-in campers shall not occupy unrented, reservable campsites until 10 a.m. on the first camping day of their stay. Campers shall vacate the campground by 3 p.m. of the last day of their stay. Initial registration shall not exceed 2 nights. Campers may continue to register after the first 2 nights on a night-to-night basis up to a maximum of 14 consecutive nights, subject to campsite availability. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department program.

j. Campers with reservations shall not occupy a campsite before 4 p.m. of the first day of their stay. Campers shall vacate the site by 3 p.m. of the last day of their stay. Campers may register for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights. All members of the camping party must vacate the state park or recreation area campground after the fourteenth night and may not return to the state park or recreation area until a minimum of 3 nights has passed. All equipment must be removed from the site at the end of each stay. The 14-night limitation shall not apply to volunteers working under a department program.

k. Minimum stay requirements for camping reservations. From May 1 to October 31, a two-night minimum stay is required for weekends. The two nights shall be designated as Friday and Saturday nights. However, if October 31 is a Friday, the Friday and Saturday night stay shall not apply. If October 31 is a Saturday, the Friday and Saturday night stay shall apply. The following additional exceptions apply:

(1) A Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night stay is required for the national Memorial Day holiday and national Labor Day holiday weekends.

(2) A Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night stay is required for the Fourth of July holiday when the Fourth of July occurs on a Monday.

l. Buddy campsite reservations. Buddy campsites are between two to four individual sites that are grouped together and can only be reserved and used collectively. Campers reserving buddy campsites through the centralized reservation system must reserve both or all four of the individual sites that make up the group buddy campsite or buddy campsite.

m. Rescinded IAB 9/8/21, effective 10/13/21.

n. In designated campgrounds, equine animals and llamas must be stabled at a hitching rail, individual stall or corral if provided. Equine animals and llamas may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time to allow for grooming and saddling. These animals may be stabled inside trailers if no hitching facilities are provided. Portable stalls/pens and electric fences are not permitted.

o. Campers shall use only straps to secure hammocks to trees in campsites. Straps must be a minimum of one inch wide. The use of bolts, nails, spikes, or any other fastening attachment to a tree is prohibited.

p. Special events. The department director or director's authorized representative may authorize camping in areas outside designated campgrounds for certain special events as defined in rule 571—44.2(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A). Requests shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and permitted under the provisions of 571—Chapter 44.

61.4(6) *Area-specific restrictions on campground use.* In addition to the general conditions of public use set forth in this chapter, special conditions shall apply to specific areas listed as follows:

a. Brushy Creek Recreation Area, Webster County.

(1) In the designated equestrian campgrounds, the maximum number of equine animals to be tied to the hitching rails is six. Persons with a number of equine animals in excess of the number permitted on the hitching rail at their campsite shall be allowed to stable their additional animals in a trailer or register and pay for an additional campsite if available.

(2) In the designated equestrian campgrounds, equine animals may be tied to trailers for short periods of time to allow grooming or saddling; however, the tying of equine animals to the exterior of trailers for extended periods of time or for stabling is not permitted.

b. Recreation area campgrounds. Access into and out of designated campgrounds shall be permitted from 4 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. From 10:30 p.m. to 4 a.m., only registered campers are permitted in and out of the campgrounds.

c. Lake Manawa State Park, Pottawattamie County. Except for the following limitations on campground length of stay, campsite use restrictions as stated in 61.4(5) shall apply to Lake Manawa. Campers may register for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights. No person may camp at the Lake Manawa campground for more than 14 nights in any 30-day period.

d. Walnut Woods State Park, Polk County. Except for the following limitations on campground length of stay, campsite use restrictions as stated in 61.4(5) shall apply to Walnut Woods. Campers may register for more than 1 night at a time but not for more than 14 consecutive nights. No person may camp at the Walnut Woods campground for more than 14 nights in any 30-day period.

61.4(7) Campground fishing. Rule 571—61.11(461A) is not intended to prohibit fishing by registered campers who fish from the shoreline within the camping area.

[ARC 7684B, IAB 4/8/09, effective 5/13/09; ARC 8821B, IAB 6/2/10, effective 7/7/10; ARC 0383C, IAB 10/3/12, effective 11/7/12; ARC 4396C, IAB 4/10/19, effective 5/15/19; ARC 5900C, IAB 9/8/21, effective 10/13/21]