



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2008

Contact: Roy Stearns

(916) 653-8380

Memorial Day Weekend Camping Update

Some State Park Campsites Still Available, But Visitors Better Act Today

SACRAMENTO – If high gas prices are driving you crazy, then drive the family to a State Park closer to home and cut the gas bill. For fun and economy this Memorial Day weekend, California's State Parks can't be beat.

The upcoming Memorial Day weekend is the traditional kick-off for the summer camping and recreation season, the time when hundreds of thousands of campers find their campsites and make themselves at home in a private way at a public place.

But they are the campers who made reservations in advance. As always, the most popular campgrounds on the reservation system fill up fast and early.

Check the current status of campsite availability at www.parks.ca.gov

Here's the current list of Memorial Day park availability from Friday, May 23, through Sunday, May 25, 2008. The list provides parks that are available for a one-day, two-day, or a three-day stay. **Remember there is a 48-hour reservation window, which means the last day you can book your reservation is Wednesday, May 21, for arrival Friday, May 23.**

This section will be updated three times a week until Memorial Day weekend.

[For reservations, call the toll-free phone number 800-444-PARK or go on line to on-line reservations at www.parks.ca.gov]

Benbow Lake SRA
Brannan Island SRA
Butano SP
Calaveras Big Trees SP
Castle Crags SP
Caswell Memorial SP
Clear Lake SP

Col. Allensworth SHP
 Crystal Cove SP
 Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP
 Folsom Lake SRA
 Fremont Peak SP
 Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP
 Grover Hot Springs SP
 Hendy Woods SP
 Humboldt Redwoods SP
 Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP
 Lake Oroville SRA
 Lake Perris SRA
 McConnell SRA
 Mt. Diablo SP
 Mt. San Jacinto SP
 Patrick's Point SP
 Portola Redwoods SP
 Prairie Creek Redwoods SP
 Richardson Grove SP
 Salton Sea SRA
 Standish-Hickey SRA
 Turlock Lake SRA

Here are some tips to make the most of California State Parks camping plans:

- For Reservation Sites - Plan ahead. You can make reservations up to seven months in advance through ReserveAmerica at 1-800-444-7275 or on-line at www.parks.ca.gov
- Determine where you want to camp and be flexible: Have alternate parks in mind in case your first choice is booked. Check the State Park website at www.parks.ca.gov

To help, get a copy of the Park Visitor Welcome kit by calling (916) 653-6995 or writing to:

California State Parks Information Office
 P.O. Box 942896
 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

- Consider first-come, first-served campgrounds.
- Consider the “shoulder season.” Summer is the busiest time of the year, so try and take your vacation during the “off season” – April, May or after Labor Day.
- Consider week days. Sometimes reservations are easier to make if you can camp mid-week.

- Consider less popular camps: Southern coastal campgrounds can be full year-round. You could have better luck getting reservations at State Parks north of Santa Cruz or inland. Look for sites which are more remote, away from major metropolitan areas.
- Remember the holiday crush: The closer you try to make reservations to a holiday (Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend), the further north and inland you may need to go.
- Consider cancellations: Check the ReserveAmerica website or call 800-444-7275. Cancellations are rare, but they do occur.
- If the campgrounds you want are booked, consider visiting the park for a day for a picnic, hike or other outdoor recreation.

#