



Rockefeller State Park Preserve

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION - TACONIC REGION

125 Phelps Way; Pleasantville, NY 10570

Phone: (914) 631-1470

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August 2011

Dear Coach,

As you work with your students in training for the coming season, I want to welcome you to the Preserve as well as to take this opportunity to discuss the opportunities and concerns that exist at the Preserve with your team's use of our resources.

For your convenience, the season begins in August and goes through July of the following year. That way we can accommodate the school calendar.

Opportunity: Rockefeller State Park Preserve is by the nature of its classification an environment designed for **passive recreation**. Traditionally that would not include training for organized athletic competition. However, we understand that the composition of our trails makes them an ideal environment for runners and especially for young athletes.

We have been working with school field and track coaches to develop a one page summation of our guidelines.

Please let us know if you have any questions concerning their implementation.

Concerns: Carriage driving and horseback riding can be extremely dangerous activities. An accident with either is of extreme concern. Therefore it is imperative that runners yield to horses and carriages. We have a section which outlines appropriate interaction.

We also have a significant number of patrons who are 65 years and older, and on weekends, families with small children, care must be taken in their presence as they may take time to respond to your presence. Normally, the western part of the Preserve, on the other side of Sleepy Hollow Road, has fewer of these patrons.

We have worked very hard in the development of this permit and we look forward to a wonderful season.

Sincerely,

Alix Schnee
Preserve Manager



ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
125 PHELPS WAY; PLEASANTVILLE, NY 10591
PHONE: (914) 631-1470 FAX: (914) 631-3064



GROUP-RUNNING PERMIT APPLICATION

Name of Organization:		Grade/Age of runners:	Total # Persons Involved:
Team Name:		Description/Color of Uniforms: <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Group Leader:			
Person appointed to be In Charge of Clean-up:			
All registered groups are required to wear at least one item of clothing displaying the group name that is clearly visible at all times.			

Dates of Valid Permit <i>(office use only)</i>	Begins:	Expires	Application date:
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contact:	Title:	Phone: (specify)
		Email:
Name of Coach:		Name of Athletic Director:
School/ Organization Address:	Comments:	
Phone:		

Trail Regulations

Rockefeller State Park Preserve

The Trail System is Multi-Use. The Preserve and its trails are Multi-Use for all to enjoy while pursuing **passive recreation** including carriage driving, horseback riding, running, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, and outdoor environmental education programs. Please be courteous to and respectful. Safety is the primary concern and reason for our regulations.

Approaching Carriages and Equestrians. When approaching a horse, **slow down to a walk and signal to the rider by calling out your intention to pass single file and on which side.** Pass creating as much space as possible. Riders and Carriages have a horse to control and may have trouble maneuvering and/or stopping. Encounters with equestrians/horses may require you to stop completely in order to maintain safety. The riders will respond as to what is the safest approach with their horse.

HORSES MAY BEHAVE UNPREDICTABLY. *When approaching a horse:*

- No loud noises.
 - No sudden gestures.
 - Be aware that horses have **blind spots** and may not always be able to see you.
 - Use extra caution when approaching from the **rear**. Horses may kick out their back legs if you get too close, injuring a group member and/or throwing the rider.
- **Approaching Other Users.** The same general rules for approaching equestrians should be followed when approaching other users as well. Call out and communicate with other users you encounter, announce your intention to pass, etc. Remember that some people may not be as maneuverable or aware as others. All patrons are expected to follow the Multi-Use Policy and other Preserve rules.
 - **Vehicles on Trails.** Be aware that these are working trails. Visitors may encounter a variety of vehicular traffic including park vehicles, emergency vehicles traveling at high speeds, tractors, small personal 4-wheel drive vehicles, and *horse-drawn vehicles* (e.g. carriages and wagons). **Vehicles ALWAYS have the right-of-way.**
 - **Group Configuration.** Running in large (7 or larger) groups that dominate the trail is not allowed. Accordingly teams need to be broken up into smaller groups, no larger than 6 to a group. Runners must reduce groups to **SINGLE FILE** when approaching other patrons on the trail. Keep **RIGHT**. Pass creating the maximum space possible. Groups should follow regular traffic patterns as a general rule and should run in pairs, 3 pairs to a group so as not to dominate the trails.
 - **Yielding/Passing.**
 1. Slow down.
 2. Move off to the side of the trail.
 3. Reduce running unit to single file.
 4. Call out to the rider/patron. Indicate on which side you intend to pass.
 5. Create plenty of space when passing.
 6. Stop if asked.

Trail Restrictions and Suggestions. In the interest of maintaining the safety of all, the following trails/areas hold special restrictions. See map on State website or Friends of Rockefeller website.

- **Walk-Only Areas:** This rule applies to ALL users. These walk only trails tend to be heavily congested and/or narrow:
 - **Courtyard and Swan Lake access trail**
 - **Bridges:** Archville Overpass (Rt. 9), Triple-Arch Bridge, Pocantico River Bridge, Rt. 117 Overpasses (x2)

- **Group-Running Restrictions:** The following trails border equestrian access areas and are the most congested trails in the park. **Groups of more than four (<4) are not permitted to run on these trails:**
 - **Brothers Path**
 - **Deer Run**
 - **Peaceful Path**
 - **Old Railroad Bed**
 - **Brook Trail**
 - **David's Loop**

*Please note this restriction represents only **3.65 trail-miles**. (See map)*

- **Group-Running Recommendations:** Park Staff encourages groups to direct their activities within these areas. These trails are wide, open, and are rarely used by other visitors:
 - **Rockwood Hall Area**
 - **Buttermilk Hill Area**
 - **Thirteen Bridges / Witches Spring Area**

Alterations. No alterations may be made to Preserve property. No signs may be posted or markings made of any kind. The Permittee is responsible for any damages to Preserve property or facilities resulting from the activities under the permit.

Clean-Up. **RSPP is a Carry-in, Carry-out Facility.** ALL ITEMS, including trash, brought into the Preserve must be removed at the conclusion of each activity. Preserve staff are not responsible for trash. Other items left trailside for short periods of time are the responsibility of the individual and should be kept *orderly, consolidated, and clearly marked*; otherwise they will be removed as trash. No items should be hung from any vegetation or structures. Items may not be left or stored in the patio area or visitor center.

Thank you for helping to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all patrons. Please note that park management reserves the right to issue warnings against any group or individuals found in violation of Preserve policy, endangering the safety of others, or any of the rules or conditions of their permit. Warnings apply to all associated members when issued to a group member.

This Permit does not become effective until approved by the Preserve Office.

I have read and fully understand all of the rules, regulations, and policies above. I understand that I am expected to fully comply with these and any further instruction by Preserve staff.

I hereby apply for an activity permit as shown above. I and all other members of my group have read and understand all of the rules and regulations associated with the Rockefeller State Park Preserve Multi-Use Policy and agree to fully abide by them.

Permit is non-transferrable

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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APPROVAL * OFFICE USE ONLY *	
Signed: _____ Preserve Manager	Date: _____