

May 15, 1991

Park Directive 1040

CHURCH SERVICES IN STATE PARKS

The following guidelines will be observed in connection with permitting religious services to be held in state parks. Sensitivity should be used in explaining these guidelines to organizations using your park for church services. In delicate situations, please make your regional supervisor and the Parks Director aware of your approach in advance.

1. Church services will be regulated under the supervision of the park superintendent in provisional cooperation with the local ministerial alliance.
2. Church services must be interdenominational and open to all park visitors.
3. Charges, collections, and/or donations of any nature are prohibited.
4. A facility with group capacity, i.e., amphitheater or pavilion, will be designated for church services by the park superintendent and will be reserved expressly for church services during a specified time. Any "reserved for church service" sign will be portable and used only on the date of services.
5. Church services should be scheduled for no more than one hour, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Changes in times and locations of such services will be done only with prior approval from the park superintendent. Due consideration will be given to non-participating park visitors.
6. Publicizing of all church services will be limited to posted notices on designated bulletin boards only. Notices will stress informality of dress of participants.
7. All youth volunteer church services will be approved by the park superintendent and will comply with all other aspects of this policy. Youth church services will not be included as a part of park interpretive programs.

8. Amplification systems which disturb non-participants will not be authorized for church services. If utilized, musical instruments, such as pianos and organs, will not be permitted to remain in the park following services.


9. Other than guide dogs for the blind, pets will not be permitted to accompany participants.

Replaces PD 1040 dated June 15, 1980

Effective until superseded

P.D. 1040

Approved by



GREG BUTTS, DIRECTOR
Arkansas State Parks