



2024

# Washington State Backpacking Permits



# Backpacking Permit Types

- Each type of area has its own regulations
  - National Parks
  - Wilderness Areas
  - National Forests
  - Bureau of Land Management
- In addition, each specific area may have additional regulations
- Several Different Kinds of Permits
  - Some areas require no permits
  - Self Issue at Trailhead (no cost, fill out the form, drop in box)
  - Advance Purchase Permits
- Read specific regulation on each area's web site
  - Maximum stay, maximum group size, dogs, bear canisters, etc.
- Purchase permits on <http://recreation.gov>
- Permits & Lotteries typically have a cost
- In addition, each car may need a parking pass

# Olympic National Park

- <https://www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/wilderness-reservations.htm>
- Permit reservations for the summer season (May 15th through October 15th) will be released on April 15th, at 7:00 AM PST
- Some campsites have quotas, others do not
- Popular campsites on summer weekends sell quickly
- Otherwise, plenty of permits available

Key Dates	Olympic NP
Permits on Sale	4/15/24 7:00 AM

# Mt Rainier and North Cascades National Parks

- <https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wilderness-permit.htm>
- <https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/backcountry-reservations.htm>
- Both Mt Rainier and North Cascades run an early access lottery
  - Lottery winners are allowed to buy a permit at a set time prior to going on sale to the public
  - Lottery winners have an easier time booking multiple campsites for loops (i.e., Wonderland Trail)
- Permits must be picked up in person the day of or the day before trip
- Walk-up permits are also available (do your homework – come in with a plan)
- Common technique is to buy the best available permit from the web site, and then request to upgrade campsites when you pick up permit in person.

Key Dates	Mt Rainier NP	North Cascades NP
Lottery Entries Accepted	2/12/24 – 3/4/24	3/4/24 – 3/15/24
Lottery Winners Pre-Sale	3/21/24 – 4/19/24	3/25/24 – 4/23/24
Permits on Sale	4/25/24 7:00 AM	4/29/24 7:00 AM

# The Enchantments

- [https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_053607](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_053607)
- The Enchantments is divided into 5 zones
  - Caroline, Stuart, Colchuck and Snow zone permits allow up to 8 people to camp in that zone only. You can add/remove people until you print permit. You can day-hike into or through any zone.
  - Core zone permits allow you to camp in any zone and are for the number of people requested only. You cannot add people to a core permit.
- Permits specify your Zone and entry date. You can stay for as many days as you pay for.
- You are allowed one lottery entry per person, and you can specify a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice of zones and entry dates. Limit of 1 permit per person per year.
- Every Sunday at the Leavenworth Ranger station, there is an in-person lottery for walk-up permits for the week.
- Parking passes are included with permit

Key Dates	The Enchantments
Lottery Entries Accepted	2/15/24 – 2/29/24
Lottery winners announced	3/14/24
Deadline for Lottery winners to purchase permits	3/31/24
Unclaimed Permits on Sale	4/1/24 7:00 AM