

PRACTICING GOOD RESORT ETIQUETTE

Resort users generally get along, just happy to be sharing our facilities with other individuals of similar interests. But occasionally they do things that may cause hard feelings and are contrary to the rules of good resort etiquette. And there is a good chance that offenders often don't realize the effect these behaviors have on others.



Consider the following some breaches of resort etiquette:

When a family pulls into a campsite, it becomes their temporary home. To many, the campsite is no different than their yard. We all know the shortest distance between two points is indeed a straight line. But the campground is not the place to exercise this, since this practice means cutting through countless family gatherings. Please don't cut through campsites – it's intrusive.

Pets can sometimes be the cause of an unpleasant experience for resort users as well. And many times the pet owner is unaware of the problem. Of course, the dog barks when you return – that's natural. He's excited to see you. But what you may not know is that the entire time you were away the dog howled incessantly, driving those nearby crazy. An uncontrollable, barking or howling dog will quickly cause distress for nearby resort users.

Likewise, parents and grandparents must take responsibility for their children and grandchildren. Understandably, when turned loose on our spacious grounds, kids can't wait to expend pent-up energy. Just don't forget that others are here to enjoy quiet and solitude. Taking kids to play areas solves this problem and helps avoid the next.

Children playing in roadways and vehicular traffic are a dangerous combination. The 10-MPH speed limit posted is considered by some to be annoyingly slow. It is justifiably slow for two reasons, the first being safety. A vehicle traveling at that speed has a good chance of stopping when a bicycle swerves into its path or child darts out from behind an RV.

The second reason for the snail-paced speed limit is dust. When roads aren't paved, even a vehicle traveling 10-MPH will create a cloud and going faster increases the annoyance exponentially. For safety's sake and to avoid dusting fellow members, it is good resort etiquette to strictly obey the posted speed limit.

How vehicles are parked in campsites can be a common breach of etiquette. Sometimes people park their towing vehicle or boat in the campsite next door instead of in their own space. This seems innocent enough. However, parking a vehicle in a spare site is unfair to those arriving who may have the site reserved. The same is true when someone allows their vehicle to protrude into the roadway. There may be room for vehicles to get by, but what about the person across the way that needs to pull out his RV? Is there sufficient room for him to safely maneuver?

Taking your space and a little bit of the one next door is another common breach of etiquette at side-by-side campsites. It isn't uncommon to find tents and sliders protruding over onto the next campsite. In no case should anything extend beyond the utility pedestal. A good rule is, "Your campsite is your campsite – no less but, more importantly no more."

Noise and air pollution – loud, late parties around a smoky campfire – coming from an adjacent site rub many users the wrong way. If what you're listening to can be easily heard, close appropriate windows, or lower the volume. Remember this – sound carries, particularly in wide-open areas like the campground. Please observe the quiet hours as posted. Burning the right kinds of dry wood generally solves the smoke problem. However, if the breeze carries smoke into the windows of a nearby camper, consider dousing the fire for that evening.

The condition in which you leave the campsite is a direct indication of the respect you have for others. How many times have you been greeted by a campsite littered with paper or a fire ring heaped with the previous occupant's trash? Please take time to remove all refuse from the grill and surrounding grounds prior to departure. If the picnic table was moved during your visit, return it to the cement pad. Think before you leave. Is this the way you would want your campsite to look the next time you visit the resort?

Convenient courtesy phones are a cherished amenity for many. Ignoring the fact that others are waiting to use facilities – we suggest a 10-minute limit – and intimidating a user by standing over his or her shoulder are examples of poor etiquette. If the conversation is important and requires longer than 10 minutes then it's appropriate to let those waiting know of your situation.