



## **2019 Great American Campout**

June 22, 2019 – Hillendale Park

Below are some basic guidelines for our campout. We encourage everyone to visit [www.nwf.org/Great-American-Campout.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Great-American-Campout.aspx) for ideas, tips, recipes, activities, songs, and stories. We have areas setup throughout the park for disc golf, riding bikes, basketball, volleyball, kickball, corn hole, etc. Everyone is encouraged to share their photos on the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Facebook page, along with the Great American Campout Facebook page.

Campers may begin setting up at 4:00pm at the earliest. Campers must have their site cleaned and removed from the park by 9:00am. Everyone will meet initially at shelter 12 in Hillendale Park.

### **Camp Rules/Information:**

- Only tent camping is permitted. We will have a limit of 50 tents for this event.
- Each camper must wear a wrist band so that they are identifiable.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for their children and their children's behavior at all times. This camping event is organized by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, however it remains primarily a parent/guardian camping event. Parents are responsible for keeping track of their children, and for their children's manners.
- Please respect other people's property. Use extreme caution when walking around tents. Ask permission prior to borrowing chairs or equipment.
- We will have a map of the park on hand, campers will need to mark on the map where they will be setting up their camp.
- When dropping off campsite equipment, vehicles must stay on the main roads throughout Hillendale Park.
- Quiet hours will be from 10:00pm-7:00am.
- No alcoholic beverages or drugs are permitted inside any Harrisonburg City Parks. Campers will be asked to leave immediately if this is violated.
- The recommended minimum age for this camp is 3 years old.
- A roster of camp participants will be kept on hand, please make sure you sign-in when entering the park to setup, and sign-out when exiting the park the next morning.
- Campers are responsible for their trash. Ideally you leave the camp site looking better than when you arrived.
- Do not cut down trees or vegetation.
- No pets are allowed during the campout.
- Campsite cooking will be allowed only if you use a gas grill (charcoal grills are available at shelters 11 & 12 – must provide own charcoal).
- Individual camp fires will not be permitted at campsites – see group camp fire information below.
- No firearms permitted.

### **Camp Fire Information:**

- A group camp fire will be held from 8:00pm-10:00pm at a designated location determined by Parks & Recreation staff - weather permitting.

### **Items to Consider Bringing:**

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|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| -Tent             | -Sleeping Bag or Equivalent       | -Any needed medications               |
| -Lawn Chair       | -Flashlight/Lantern               | -Sunscreen                            |
| -Camera           | -Cooler                           | -First Aid Kit                        |
| -Insect Repellent | -Water                            | -Whistle (for emergency notification) |
| -Snacks or Meals  | -Appropriate Clothing for Weather | -Appropriate footwear                 |

Please remember to check the weather forecast for the evening of the campout and prepare accordingly. There is no safe place to be outside during a thunderstorm. If we have threatening skies, we will have a location to meet until things clear. Please consult with camp directors so that you are familiar with the location of this facility. When in doubt, vehicles are great alternatives.

There may be other groups using the park until nightfall, please be respectful as we are all sharing this public park.

The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation along with their volunteers are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Leave all valuables at home or keep them with you.

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Organized camping is a creative, educational activity that takes everyone back to the basics of living, specifically living outdoors. Using the natural surroundings, participants develop physical, mental, spiritual, and social growth. The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation hopes everyone will use this opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in the closed setting of Hillandale Park.

The Great American Campout is a national sponsored program through the National Wildlife Federation. Various areas across the nation host their own local public campouts; however this program is not limited to the public campout on the set date of June 22nd. The main focus of this free program is to encourage everyone to get out and camp! Each camper will visit the [www.nwf.org/Great-American-Campout.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Great-American-Campout.aspx) to sign the pledge. Each pledge counts towards the goal of 200,000 campers. If you do not camp in our public event, and choose to use your own backyard or alternative location, or even alternative date, you are encouraged to sign the pledge as well.

Snap a photo at your next camping adventure and be sure to share it on social media using the hashtags #campie and #GreatAmericanCampout.