



Mackinac Island State Park Commission
Policy

Group Activity Permits

Minutes: May 24, 1991, p. 2641
Revised: July 11, 2001
July 26, 2002, p. 3413
September 23, 2005, p. 3604
June 18, 2008
February 9, 2012
September 23, 2016, p. 4251
September 29, 2017, p. 4347
December 7, 2022, p. 4836
September 26, 2025, p.
Effective: September 26, 2025

Preamble:

In order to protect the public health and safety of park visitors and to protect landscape features and archaeological resources, it is necessary that the park managers be aware of organized group activities occurring within the boundaries of the parks. Of special concern are activities which may endanger or annoy other visitors, disrupt the operation of Commission properties, interfere with safe operation of horse drawn vehicles, cause undue noise for nearby residences, or may cause damage to natural resources.

The Commission requires Group Activity Permit Application fees for the administration and oversight of the program. Effective January 1, 2023, the Commission approved the following fee schedule:

Weddings, Drones, and Commercial activities:	\$200.00
Geocaching	N/C - provided membership with the Michigan Geocaching Organization (MiGO)
All other activities:	\$ 75.00

General Policy

Permits are needed for organized group activities within Mackinac Island State Park, Michilimackinac State Historic Park and the Mill Creek site, which involve any of the following:

1. Any activity involving live music.
2. Any activity involving sound amplification.
3. Any activity that causes a temporary blockage of a road, trail, or sidewalk.
4. Any activity involving racing, run or similar activity within the park.
5. Any activity involving more than 50 people.

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6. Any activity involving fire.
7. Any activity involving the display of signs.
8. Any activity involving set up of equipment, (e.g. tables, chairs, tents, etc.)

Permits are processed by the Park Managers, the Marketing and Group Travel Coordinator, and the Executive Administrative Assistant within 3 business days of receipt of application. Permits involving any form of racing, run or group walk, on foot or by bicycle, require special review and may only be approved by the Director, and a minimum of 7 business days is required for review. MSHP wedding venue options shall be provided to all applications for weddings.

No group activity permit is to be approved if the proposed activity would violate the Commission's rules or policies.

The permittee is responsible for all cleanup. Any cleanup by park staff will be billed to the permittee.

Permittee will be required to execute a standard liability release. Insurance and/or performance bonds may be required depending on the type of activity.

Permit applications are available at the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Field Office, (906) 847-6607 on Mackinac Island. For the mainland parks permits are obtained at the Michilimackinac Field Office, (231) 436-4205. Original signed copies will be reviewed. Scanned copies will also be accepted as valid applications.

Permits approved by MSHP staff are not effective until a copy is filed in the administrative main office, at the Post Hospital Administration Building in summer or Mackinaw City office in winter. Approving staff shall maintain original permit in permanent file. Permittee shall be provided with a copy of approved permit.

[For form see "Procedures, Group Activity Permit".]