

# Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

## General

1. Passes to Camp Harkness are non-transferable
  - The person the pass has been issued to – “the passholder” must be present any time their pass is used to enter camp property
2. To enter the park, all passholders **must** swipe their white key card at the gate.
  - This rule is still in effect when a booth operator is present
  - Do not enter any numbers into the keypad
3. Passholders have a limit of 5 accompanying guests and 2 vehicles
  - Keep in mind, guests’ behavior will reflect on the passholder
4. Green parking tags must be prominently displayed in vehicles at all times
  - Guest tags are available for 1 additional vehicle per passholder
5. From Memorial Day (in May) to Labor Day (in September), the only animals allowed in the park are **service animals**
  - Service animals must belong to a passholder
  - Service animals must always be on a leash
  - The work or task provided by service animals must be directly related to a passholder’s disability
  - Passholders are responsible for cleaning up after their service animal and must properly dispose of any animal waste
  - As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, **emotional support animals are not categorized as service animals** and will not be allowed while the seasonal restriction is in place
6. Personal grills may be used on camp property as long as they are:
  - Always used outside
  - Always kept on level ground
  - Not used on top of a picnic table\*
  - Never left unattended

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7. All passholders and their guests must always use respectful language
  - Profanity, abusive, or offensive language used by a passholder or their guest(s) may result in expulsion from the park
  
8. Littering is strictly prohibited
  - Dumpsters and recycling are located in the main parking lot by the brown cabin area, the entrance of the beach near pavilion 1, and the green cabin area
  - Camp Harkness does not provide trash bags to passholders/guests
  - Passholders are responsible to bring their own trash bags
  - All trash must be properly disposed of before departing camp
  
9. Dumpsters are only to be used to dispose of waste generated while at camp
  
10. Smoking and the use of tobacco is not permitted on the beach or in any structure on camp property
  - Buildings, pavilions, playscapes, and covered porches are defined as structures
  - At minimum, passholders and guests must be at least 25 feet away from any structure to smoke
  - Cigarette butts must be disposed of in proper receptacles
  
11. Alcoholic beverages **are not permitted** on camp property at any time
  
12. All marijuana use is prohibited
  - Medical marijuana is included in this restriction as Camp Harkness is a state facility and a public space
  
13. All forms of weapons and contraband are prohibited including but not limited to:
  - Fireworks
  - Firearms
  - Air rifles
  - Gas/CO<sub>2</sub> weapons
  - Slingshots
  - Bows
  - Arrows
  - Drones

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14. Passholders and guests must obey reasonable requests from all park personnel
15. Fires are only permitted in grills and designated campfire circles/pits
  - Fires may not be left unattended
  - Always fully extinguish fires
16. The removal or destruction of any plant material on camp property is prohibited
  - Passholders and guests may not saw off or remove any parts of living trees for campfires
  - Any vegetables or flowers in the gardens are protected under this rule
17. Camp Harkness is not responsible for any lost or stolen items
18. Failure to cancel reservations will be noted as “No Shows” which will impact a passholder’s ability to make future reservations.

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# Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

## Motor Vehicles

### 19. Obey the rules of the road at all times

- Pedestrians always have the right of way, stay alert and share the road
- Observe and respect all road signs
- No vehicle is to exceed the posted 10 mph speed limit anywhere on camp property at any time
- No vehicle is to exceed the posted 5 mph speed limit in the cabin areas or where otherwise posted around camp property
- Never drive on walkways, sand, or grass

### 20. Park only in designated areas

- Parking on or alongside roadways is prohibited
- Parking on grass is prohibited unless specifically directed by staff

### 21. Vehicles must be able to fit in a standard parking space

- In order to ensure emergency vehicles may access all areas of camp property and evacuation procedure is not restricted, RVs, large buses, and oversized vehicles are NOT permitted to park in any parking area – including the beach

### 22. Loading and unloading is permitted if done according to the rules

- When loading or unloading anywhere on camp property, turn on emergency flashers
- Do not leave the vehicle running
- Do not leave keys in the ignition
- As soon as loading is completed, the vehicle must be promptly moved to a parking area

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## Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

### Fishing

23. Fishing is subject to restrictions while the beach is open to swimming from Memorial Day (in May) to Labor Day (in September) and especially during open swim hours
  - Casting toward the swim area is prohibited
  - Fishing from the sand is prohibited
  - Ensure any directives given by lifeguards are followed (ex. a lifeguard will ask passholders and guests to stay off of dark or wet rocks to reduce the risk of injury)
24. From Labor Day (in September) to Memorial Day (in May), fishers are encouraged to remain on the edges of the beach rather than the sand to provide enough space for individuals who would like to spend time on the beach
25. The George Daly Memorial Overlook (the platform facing the ocean located at the border with Harkness Memorial State Park) is not to be used for fishing at any time
26. Ensure no fishing equipment is left unattended or left behind and leave no garbage behind
  - Pay close attention to any hooks, pliers, or other sharp equipment
27. Spearfishing is not permitted anywhere on camp property
28. The exterior sink attached to the bathhouse is designated for the passholders camping in the tentsites
  - It is prohibited clean or rinse fish in this sink

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# Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

## Beach

29. The beach is only open for swimming when lifeguards are present and providing supervision of the swim area
  - In the case of an emergency, lifeguards have the ability to immediately close the water to all swimmers in order to provide appropriate response
  - In the case of inclement weather, camp staff have the ability to close the water to swimmers and, if necessary, the entire beach
30. Swimming hours are posted as 9am-5pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day but are subject to change based on staff availability and weather
31. Swimmers may not swim outside of the designated swimming area
32. Walking and climbing on dark or wet rocks is prohibited
33. Protect the coast!
  - Crossing or playing in the dunes is prohibited – only use designated pathways to enter or exit the beach
  - Smoking is prohibited on the beach to preserve our natural environment
34. Only Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices may be used while swimming
  - To find out if your lifejacket/floaties are Coast Guard approved, check for any label or print inside
  - Lifeguards are also able to identify which personal flotation devices are approved
  - Standard lifejackets are provided for day use
35. The following items may not be used on the sand or in the water
  - Snorkels
  - Balls
  - Boogieboards
  - Frisbees
  - Skim boards
  - Surf boards

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36. No glass containers (bottles, Tupperware, etc.) may be brought onto the beach – including the boardwalk

37. The beach must be left as it was found

- Any holes dug must be filled in prior to departure
- Flatten any piles or sandcastles prior to departure
- Building or digging firepits is prohibited

38. No fires are permitted on the beach

39. Children under 12 and individuals who require more supports or supervision may not be on the beach unattended.

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### **Pavilion and Bathhouse**

40. Picnic tables at all four pavilions are for use by reservation
  - If there is no reservation label on a table, walk in use is permitted
41. Passholders and guests are welcome to use the charcoal grills as long as:
  - All briquettes are properly extinguished
  - Passholders and guests supply their own matches/lighters
42. It is forbidden to drive on the grass to load or unload vehicles at any pavilion
  - A temporary drop off area is designated at the entrance to the beach nearest the flagpole
43. The bathhouse is closed and the exterior sink is shut off for the season from Columbus Day (in November) to Memorial Day (in May)
44. Do not rinse feet or dump sand in the sinks of the bathhouse
  - Outdoor showers are available for this purpose
45. The exterior sink attached to the bathhouse is designated for the passholders camping in the tentsites
  - It is prohibited clean or rinse fish in this sink
46. For large amounts of garbage or in the case that a pavilion's garbage can is full, use the dumpster located at the entrance to the beach

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## Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

### Overnight Reservations

47. Check-in is **2pm for tentsites** and **3pm for cabins/cottages** on the first day of a reservation
  - Call the office to inform staff of later arrivals
48. Be sure to inform Camp Harkness staff of an early departure
49. Check-out is **12pm for tentsites** and **11am for cabins/cottages** on the final day of a reservation
  - Tentsites must be cleared of all personal belongings and equipment
  - Before departing a cabin/cottage, contact a Camp Harkness staff member to perform a walk-through of the space
  - Passholders and their guests are responsible for cleaning cabins/cottages as specified on the check-out cleaning list provided at check-in, including trash removal
  - Passholders must request a late check-out as early as possible by calling the office – late check-out is based on availability and not guaranteed
50. Tentsites may not be occupied without a reservation
51. All passholders camping at a tentsite are required to check in at the office prior to occupying their assigned tentsite
52. Tentsites are located to the right-hand side of the post marker
53. Only one vehicle is permitted to park on a tentsite
  - A second vehicle is permitted, but must park in the beach parking lot
54. Campers and RVs brought to a tentsite may not exceed 35 feet in length
55. While tent camping, tents and vehicles must be kept behind the post marker
  - Be sure not to block the access road in front of the tent sites, including during loading and unloading

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56. While tent camping, all belongings must remain within the assigned 45-foot tentsite
57. Passholders staying at a tentsite are not permitted to use Harkness Hall or its facilities as tent camping overlaps with resident camp programs
58. All trash at a tentsite must be collected and disposed of by the passholder and guests prior to departure
- The nearest dumpster is located at the entrance to the beach parking lot
  - Do not leave any garbage in the firepit
59. Portable generators are only available for medical use or to charge mobility/hearing aids while staying at a tentsite
- Outlets are provided at the bathhouse for non-essential technology
  - One generator per passholder is available on a “first come, first served” basis
  - Generators must be signed out once a day and signed back in each morning for charging
  - Charging a generator at the bathhouse is prohibited
  - The passholder will be held responsible for any damages to a portable generator in their use
60. It is prohibited to run extension cords from the bathhouse to any tentsite
61. The following items are prohibited at tentsites:
- Inflatable pools
  - Kiddie pools
  - Sprinklers
62. Quiet Hours begin at 10pm each night and end at 8am each morning
- Respect your neighbors throughout the day in regard to sound
63. In the case that a reserved tentsite is found occupied by another group, contact staff at (860) 443-7818 or security at (203) 213-7832 for assistance

## Camp Harkness Rules – 2025

64. Keys must be picked up from and returned to the office
  - Lost keys will incur a \$25 fee
65. Passholders and guests staying in a cabin/cottage are able to access Harkness Hall to use the microwave, toaster oven, refrigerator, and freezer in the spring, fall, and winter provided it is not reserved for event use
  - Any food left in Harkness Hall must be labeled with a name and date
  - Food must be removed from the refrigerator or freezer at the end of the reservation or it will be disposed of
66. Cooking (including with microwaves or toaster ovens) is prohibited in the cabin at all times
67. Passholders and guests are forbidden from using the washer and dryer in the cottages at any time
68. While staying in a cottage, passholders and guests are able to use any flatware or kitchen equipment in the cottage, however, none of the kitchen equipment is to be removed from the cottage
69. Candles and open flames are prohibited inside tents, cabins, and cottages
70. Firepits are centrally located and available for use by all passholders and guests staying in cottages or cabins, be considerate of this shared resource
71. No pets are permitted to stay overnight

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