



# **WINTER CAMPING RESERVATIONS**

## **Guidance for Registration on Opening Day**

### **BSP Headquarters, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket**

#### **General Information**

Winter camping in Baxter State Park (BSP) is permitted from December 1 to March 31, by reservation only. All reservations for winter camping must be made by completing our winter hiking/camping registration form and submitting it in person, by mail, or by email. Day users expecting to travel above treeline are also required to register with the Park. All reservations and registrations must be made at least seven business days in advance of the start of the trip. The Reservations Office in Millinocket is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM. The first day for submitting non-commercial winter camping reservations in person is November 1, or the first business day of November. Mailed/emailed registrations are processed in order of receipt after in-person registrations. Commercial user registrations are processed on the second business day of November.

#### **Opening Day Lottery on November 1st**

Many winter camping dates and locations are highly sought after, so on the first day of winter reservations, we use a lottery system to determine the order of reservations for those registering in person at our headquarters in Millinocket. The lottery and registration process are as follows:

- Our doors open at 8 AM, and entries for the first lottery drawing are accepted until 9 AM.
- At 9 AM, the first lottery drawing is conducted. All entries are drawn, and participants are informed of their place in line. Those arriving after 9 AM will be placed in a subsequent drawing.
- Entrants are called in order into the reservations office to complete their reservation.
- Those wishing to plan a second trip in the Park during the same winter will be placed in a separate lottery drawing that will be conducted after all the first-choice reservations are completed.

## New and Notable for 2023

- **Only one lottery entry is allowed per group/trip.** This rule provides each group—regardless of the number in the group—the same chance in the lottery. Groups violating this rule will forfeit their reservations. There is no advantage to bringing multiple members of one group to opening day (except for the good company).
- Bunkhouses will be reserved by the bunk (as they were prior to the COVID-19 restrictions).
- **All entries** for the first trip will be drawn at 9 AM, so participants will know their place in line in advance and will be able to plan their day (and to some extent their reservations request) accordingly.
- There is **still** no overnight camping permitted at our Headquarters (and no advantage to doing so).

## How You Can Help

- If this is your first time making a camping reservation in BSP, please help us smooth the process by **creating a reservations account with us in advance** of opening day (through our reservations website).
- Come prepared with more than one alternative for your trip(s), since there is no guarantee that you will get your first choice of dates and accommodations.
- Fill out your registration form (requesting the reservation) in advance in case your name gets picked early in the process.
- **Please follow our rules** and process, which are intended to provide equal opportunities for winter camping to those registering on opening day.
- **Be respectful** of our process, and our staff who work hard to ensure everyone in attendance has an opportunity to camp in the Park in winter.
- If you have suggestions for how to improve the opening day process, please consider submitting them in writing to the Park for future consideration. The process will not be altered on the day of the lottery.

For additional information on visiting Baxter State Park in the winter, please visit our website: <https://baxterstatepark.org/winter-basics/>