



WINTER CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Guidance for Registration on Opening Day

BSP Headquarters, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket

General Information

Winter camping in Baxter State Park (BSP) requires a reservation and is allowed from December 1 through March 31. To request a reservation, you must complete and submit a winter hiking/camping application form by mail, email, or in person. Day visitors who intend to travel above treeline are also required to submit an application to the Park. **Please note that all Winter Hiking/Camping Applications must be received a minimum of ten (10) days before your trip begins.**

- Following the review and approval of your application, Baxter State Park staff will reach out with your hiking permit or camping reservation.
- The Millinocket Reservations Office operates Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 4 PM.
- Submissions for non-commercial winter camping reservations in person open at the winter lottery on the first business day of November.
- Emailed and mailed applications will be reviewed following the in-person lottery.
- Commercial user applications will be processed starting on the second business day of November.

Opening Day Lottery on the first business day of November

Due to high demand for winter camping dates and locations, Baxter State Park hosts an in-person lottery at our Millinocket headquarters. The procedure for the lottery and application process is outlined below:

- Doors open at 8:00 AM, and entries for the primary drawing are accepted until 9:00 AM.
- The initial drawing begins promptly at 9:00 AM. Every submitted entry is selected to assign line positions. Any participant who arrives after 9:00 AM will be placed in a subsequent drawing.
- In the order drawn, applicants will enter the reservations office to complete their bookings.
- To reserve an additional Park trip for the same winter season, submit an entry for the secondary drawing, which takes place after all primary reservation requests are completed.

Important Notes for 2026

- **Strict Limit of One Entry Per Group/Trip:** To keep the lottery fair, every group receives an equal chance regardless of size. Bringing extra group members on opening day offers no competitive edge (though we always enjoy the company). Any groups attempting multiple entries will forfeit their reservations entirely.
- **Drawing Schedule & Planning:** All submitted entries for the initial trip will be drawn promptly at 9 AM. This early drawing allows participants to learn their standing ahead of time and plan their day—and reservation preferences—accordingly.
- **Headquarters Camping Restrictions:** Please note that overnight camping is **still** strictly prohibited at our Headquarters facility, and arriving early provides no benefit.
- **Bunkhouse Bookings:** Reservations for bunkhouses are handled on an individual bunk basis.

How You Can Help

Preparation Steps

- **Set up an account early:** First-time visitors should **create a reservations account in advance** on our website to ensure a seamless booking experience on opening day.
- **Complete your application early:** Fill out your reservation application before the process begins so you are fully prepared if your name is selected early.
- **Have backup options ready:** First-choice dates and lodging are not guaranteed, so please bring alternative trip options.

Guidelines & Expectations

- **Follow established rules:** Our procedures are designed to ensure fair and equal access for everyone applying for winter camping on opening day.
- **Maintain mutual respect:** Please show respect to our staff and the process as they work to give every applicant a chance to enjoy the Park.
- **Submit feedback in writing:** System adjustments will not be made on lottery day. If you have recommendations to improve the opening day experience, please submit them in writing for future consideration.

For additional information on visiting Baxter State Park in the winter, please visit our website:

<https://baxterstatepark.org/winter-basics/> or use the QR code below:

