Self-Guided Night Mountain Biker Permit

Valid 9/11/2026 to 5/2/2027

Name (print): _____

Cell Phone # of user: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Cell #: _____

Signature (permit is void without signature): _____

By signing above, the rider understands and agrees to all the rules and conditions stated below. The user further understands that failure to abide by the conditions of this permit can result in a ticket.

All mountain bikers riding trails after sundown are required to:

- Fill out this form and place it on your vehicle dashboard (one form per rider).
- Trail access allowed only on Lakeview, Morgan and Swift Creek Trail Systems, and fireroads north of Beach road only.
- Ride only in the signed direction.
- Carry a cell phone in a waterproof cover.
- Carry two high intensity lights per rider, recommend 1500 lumen minimum.
- Suggested to ride in groups of two or more.
- Carry a physical trail map or a smartphone with mapping app such as TrailForks or Avenza.
- Park only in the Front Parking Lot on State Park Rd, Loop Forest Trail Parking Lot, Horner Forest Parking Lot, or Taylor Forest Parking Lot (parking fee applies at all locations)
- Return to your car no later than 9:00 pm EST.
- Leave the park no later than 10:00 pm EST.

THIS PERMIT IS ISSUED SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

The permittee shall and hereby does waive and release any and all claim(s) against the Friends of Pocahontas State Park, its officers and volunteers, and against the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation or its officers, employees, agents, or the Commonwealth of Virginia for any and all damages, losses or costs to persons or property arising either directly or indirectly from the use of said premise and/or from the exercise of the privileges granted by this permit.

Permittee agrees to exercise privileges granted in the permit subject to all conditions and instructions, whether written or verbal, issued by Division of State Parks personnel.

This permit shall immediately terminate upon the violation of any of the conditions herein contained.

Self-Guided Night Ride Rules

Version 2026-2027

1. Night rides are allowed through the fall and winter months with the exception of closures due to official announced closures or wet trail conditions. To monitor for official and weather related trail closures please check FOPSP.org. Please follow trail closures and use common sense. If you are leaving tire tracks, do not ride. The season starts the week after Labor Day and runs into the first week of May the following year.
2. By default, use of the park after sundown is illegal and subject to fines. Night riding is available under a special use permit obtained by the Friends of Pocahontas State Park. The special use permit can be revoked if participants fail to follow rules and common sense, please review these rules carefully.
3. The entire park and all trails will be closed December 7th-8th; no riding will be allowed on those days.
4. **Riders are required to print out, complete and sign a night riding permit and to display the permit(s), one per rider, in their car window.** Permit will not be available or provided by the park or staff. This helps the park rangers know who is riding and who may be lost when inspecting lots for permits and proof of parking.
5. Night riding without completely filling out and displaying a waiver is illegal and subject to fine.
6. Breaking the permit or park rules voids the permit.
7. Riders are allowed only to ride the Swift Creek, Lakeview, Morgan and fire roads north of beach road.
8. Riders must park and access the trails from the parking lot just beyond the contact station at the main entrance of the park off Beach Rd., Loop Forest Trail parking lot, Horner Forest Trail parking lot, or Taylor Forest Trail parking lot. Parking fees apply at all locations.
9. Please be safe. Night riding is a privilege and allowed as long as people ride conservatively and respectfully. If there are accidents or rule violations, the special use permit may be revoked and night ride privileges will be eliminated for all.
10. Ride safe, ride in groups, pay the parking fee, follow the rules, be self-sufficient and enjoy this privilege. Currently there is no additional charge for after-hours riding. Should we as the users not properly manage the program causing additional work for the rangers the future may hold a cost for the permit to cover the cost to operate the program.
11. Equipment – minimum of two separate light systems required. Lighting must be powerful enough to illuminate trail for riding and robust enough for mountain bike use – minimum of 1500 lumens recommended. Both a helmet and handlebar mounted light is recommended as well as a spare battery. Bicycle should be well maintained and ready to ride. Working and operational mobile phone is also mandatory.