



Factsheet: Special Use Permit – Wedding Ceremonies in State Parks

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) manages State Park lands and waters for public use, including events such as weddings. This factsheet outlines when a permit is needed and how to apply.

When is a permit required?

- A SUP is required for any organized assembly of 20 or more people.
- If your wedding includes fewer than 20 people and no structures, no permit is needed.
- Permits are issued under 11 AAC 18.010.

How much does a permit cost?

SUPs have a \$100 non-refundable application fee; the permit cost will depend on the number of people attending and any temporary structures.

Small assembly: 20-50 persons \$50

Medium assembly: 50-100 persons \$100

Large Assembly: 100 persons and up \$225

Temporary Structures: \$100 per permit

The prices are determined by Director's Order (DO) 327. For more details, refer to the full order: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/dirorder/327sup.pdf>.

Does the permit cover the parking?

- SUPs **do not** include parking.
- All guests must pay day-use parking fees or use an annual pass:
dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes

Do you need a permit if you have a Reserve America reservation?

An assembly of more than 20 persons is covered under your Reserve America reservation. However, if

your ceremony takes place outside of the reserved facilities' boundaries, then a SUP is required.

When will a permit be denied?

Wedding SUPs are likely to be denied if the chosen date falls on a federal, state, or local holiday, existing SUP has already been issued, or if the selected State Park facility is in high demand, leading to overcrowding for other recreational users.

Can you have a photographer capture the day?

Yes, you may have a photographer to capture your ceremony. If the photographer is offering a paid service, they are considered a commercial operator and must obtain their own Commercial Use Permit from DPOR. For more information, refer to our permitting factsheet.

Tips when submitting a Special Use Permit for a wedding ceremony.

- Include: location, number of attendees, date, time, duration, and any structures.
- Apply early – allow up to 30 days for processing.

Where do I find the application and get additional information?

Applications for all DPOR permits are available online at:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/permit/index.htm>.

Have Questions?

Contact parkpermitting@alaska.gov