

## General Refuge Regulations for Okefenokee NWR

All local, State, and Federal regulations apply on the Refuge. Specific Refuge regulations are addressed in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. In addition you are reminded of the following:

- ❖ **Do not feed or harass wildlife.**
- ❖ Camping except with a permit, open fires, feeding or baiting of wildlife, swimming in Refuge waters, or entering any area posted with *area closed* signs is prohibited.
- ❖ Boats with outboard motors are limited to 10 hp. No airboats or paddleboards allowed. Children under 13 must wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). A PFD must be on board for every passenger.
- ❖ All pets must be properly confined, leashed (10-foot maximum), and under owner control at all times. No pets are allowed in boats, buildings, or boardwalks.
- ❖ Entry only during posted hours. Closing times strictly enforced. Allow time to return to your vehicle and leave the area before posted closing time.
- All visitors accessing the Okefenokee by boat must sign in and out at the nearest kiosk or visitor center.
- You must have a valid entrance pass (Daily, Refuge-specific Annual Pass, Interagency Annual Pass, Access Pass, Senior Pass, Volunteer Pass, Military Pass, or Duck Stamp). Display pass or placard clearly on the dashboard of your vehicle.
- Stay on marked walking trails and roads. Boaters must stay on marked trails.
- Bikes are allowed only on paved roads. Children under 16 must wear a bike helmet.
- Littering or dumping of garbage, refuse, sewage, debris, or other wastes or poisons is prohibited.
- The use of a spotlight, automotive headlight, or other artificial light to spot, observe, locate, or take any animal on the Refuge is prohibited.
- Taking, possessing, injuring, disturbing, damaging, destroying, or collecting any plant or animal (or attempting these actions) is prohibited.
- Destroying, defacing, damaging, disturbing, or removing any private or public property, including any natural object or artifact, is prohibited. The use or possession of metal detectors or similar devices is prohibited.
- Disturbing or interfering with any person engaged in an authorized activity is prohibited. Engaging in any act of indecency or disorderly conduct (as defined by State or local laws) is prohibited.
- Entering or remaining on the Refuge when under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance is prohibited.
- Begging or soliciting in any form or conducting a commercial enterprise on the Refuge is prohibited.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Firearms are prohibited in all buildings. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Possessing or discharging fireworks, or explosives is prohibited.
- Carrying, using, or possessing cross bows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons is prohibited. Some of these weapons may be legal to use for hunting or fishing (see current Refuge hunting permit and State regulations).
- ATV's (3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.) are prohibited.
- Carrying, using, or possessing paintball guns or paintball markers is prohibited.
- Special Use Permits are required for all commercial activities within the refuge. Special regulations apply to commercial guiding and outfitting.
- Traveling outside of designated routes of travel is prohibited. Designated routes of travel are shown on the Refuge maps or as posted with *road closed*, *area closed*, *no vehicle*, or *foot traffic only* signs.
- Stopping or parking a vehicle (either attended or unattended) on a road, trail, or firelane such that it blocks the free movement of other vehicles is prohibited.

## Wilderness Canoe Trail System

- The canoe permit must be carried by the group leader, who is responsible for the party following all Refuge regulations. You must complete any additions or changes to your permit before you depart.
- You must launch before 10:00 a.m. each day.
- Motors of any kind are not permitted on canoe only trails or overnight canoe trips.
- You must remain at your designated shelter between sunset and sunrise only for one night.
- Campfires are allowed only at Canal Run, Floyds Island, Mixons Hammock, and Cravens Hammock. A camp stove is required for cooking at all other shelters. Be aware of restrictions during dry periods.
- Follow exactly the route on your permit. Do not stray from your assigned trail. Only one party per stop is allowed.
- All licenses, permits, equipment, and effects, including vehicles and canoes, are subject to inspection by state and federal officers.
- You must display parking placard clearly on the dashboard of any vehicle you leave parked overnight at any entrance.