



SPECIAL USE PERMIT INFORMATION

Steep Rock Association (SRA, the Association) conserves ecologically and historically significant landscapes in and around Washington CT and the Shepaug River Valley and enhances the community's connection with nature.

Our protected lands are the places that provide turtles with berries to eat or streams to swim, fish with refuge from hot summer's waters, migrating songbirds with rest and refueling opportunities along their journey or safe locations to establish mating territories and construct nests. There are places for bobcats to den, forests and cliffs for goshawks, owls, peregrines, and other raptors, and so much more. Much of our staff and volunteer efforts go into caring for the land to ensure these special habitats can support the diverse plants and wildlife that call our Preserves their home – all while balancing the need for human connection to the outdoors and passive recreation in nature.

We value our local communities and look for responsible ways to provide access for learning about conservation as well as experiencing nature. So when we're approached by a group or individual with a request for a special outing or activity, we weigh whether the proposed use is compatible with the protection of these natural resources. When possible, we gladly encourage:

- **Educational use of SRA Preserves.** Educational use includes school programs, research projects, and any outing with a learning component. If you would like to bring your group to a Steep Rock Association Preserve, please complete our Educational Use Permit Application at least 15 business days in advance of outing.
- **Small group outings to experience nature.** Small, organized, non-commercial groups of people are welcome to horseback ride, hike, fish, mountain bike, or pursue other low-impact recreation in the Preserves, in accordance with our Preserve Rules. Outdoor recreation, specifically horseback riding, is a part of our heritage. We kindly request that organized groups of 10 or more complete a General Day Use Permit Application at least *15 business days in advance* of your outing. Groups that charge a fee must fill out a Commercial Day Use Permit application *3 months in advance*.

All commercial, for-profit groups/organizations:

- **Commercial use is prohibited without a permit.** All commercial and for-profit groups must have an approved permit to utilize the preserves. Commercial day use includes, but is not limited to, charging an entry or participation fee, or where the primary purpose is the sale of a good or service, regardless of the intent to produce a profit. As a nonprofit organization, the Association does not allow private benefit of our Preserves. Any fees and/or donations associated with an event must be pre-approved by SRA and should be donated to a local nonprofit organization. Please complete a Commercial Day Use Permit Application at least three (3) months in advance. All commercial use applications are reviewed by staff and may need to be reviewed by committee; committees may review applications during their quarterly meetings.



GENERAL GROUP USE APPLICATION

We are glad that you have decided to spend some time experiencing nature & the outdoors at one of our Preserves. Please complete this application and submit to our office at least 15 business days prior to your event for processing, along with a copy of your insurance certificate with Steep Rock Association named as an additional insured. For questions, (860) 868-9131 or info@steeprocksoc.org. For educational/research outings – please submit an Educational Day Use Application. All commercial organizations – please submit a Commercial Day Use Application three (3) months prior to proposed event.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Group/Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nonprofit organization (please attach IRS determination letter)

Other: _____

Name of responsible person on event day: _____

Mobile phone number & email: _____

First-time applicant

Event previously held in SRA preserve(years): _____

Important Rules & Reminders:

1. The Preserves are open from sunrise to sunset.
2. Please park cars in designated areas; no off-roading.
3. No hunting.
4. Non-alcoholic beverages only.
5. Respect other visitors. Enjoy the peace of nature - no loud noise or music.
6. Dogs must be leashed at all times; it's your duty to remove your pet's doody.
7. Horseback riding & mountain biking are permitted on designated trails, see trail maps & posted signs
8. Fishing allowed in areas noted on map; must follow Connecticut fishing regulations.
9. Fires are permitted only in the provided grills and fire rings.
10. In winter, cross-country skiers to set tracks on one side of trail and others to use other side of trail.
11. Please leave nature and history where it's found – no removal of plants, fungi, wildlife, rocks, quartz, artifacts, etc.
12. Help us keep the preserve beautiful! PLEASE carry out what you carry in as there are no trash cans.



You can protect nature and provide a wonderful recreational environment by following the above.
Thank you for caring.

Applicant's Initials

GENERAL GROUP USE APPLICATION



Organization Name: _____

EVENT INFORMATION

Date(s) (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____
(a.m. or p.m.) (a.m. or p.m.)

Inclement weather date(s)/time: _____

For use of inclement weather dates, applicant must notify SRA via email upon postponement of original date.

Event Type:

- Mountain/road biking Equestrian Fishing Hike/walk
 Paddle Picnic Other: _____

Purpose of Activity/Event: _____

Description of Activity/Event: _____

Preserve/Location Requested (please attach a map highlighting proposed trails/areas):

- Steep Rock Preserve (area/trail): _____
 Hidden Valley Preserve (area/trail): _____
 Macricostas Preserve (area/trail): _____

Note that any proposed trail races will be sent an additional form to complete.

Publicity plan: None Printed media: _____

Signage: _____

Signage is not allowed on the Preserves without specific request and confirmation from SRA.

Social/digital media: _____ Word of Mouth

We will share name and contact information of our event participants: ____ Yes ____ No

Total # Participants(Adult/Children): _____ # of Vehicles: _____

By signing, I acknowledge that SRA may have an information table set up during the event.

Any other pertinent information: _____

Applicant's Initials

GENERAL GROUP USE APPLICATION



Organization Name: _____

Please note, SRA takes the following into consideration when reviewing applications :

- Connection to our SRA's outreach goals (Stewarding the Land, Learning about Conservation, Experiencing Nature)
- Impacts of event on Preserves and our visitors:
 - Only public access preserves may be utilized (we steward 31 non-public access, wildlife preserves)
 - Preserves without multi-trail networks will only accommodate small outings
 - Any direct benefit of event to nonprofit organizations including SRA, and also the town & local community
 - Number of participants, duration, and type of event
- Publicity (marketing of event on SRA property or SRA social media is not allowed; any 'day of event' signs must be pre-approved)
- Applicant's ability to share event participants' name & contact information with SRA

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all rules listed on this application. I understand this application may be denied or revoked at any time at the discretion of the Association. I further understand that the preserve is open to the public during the proposed event and that I will not have exclusive use of the Preserve or the event area.

Upon approval, I will receive a copy of this application and a Day Use Sign for my vehicle; I'll keep them in my possession during the approved event.

X _____
Signature Printed Name Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

✓ Yes! I want to do my part to help continue the important conservation work of Steep Rock Association so that groups like mine can continue to enjoy the preserves. Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of:

- \$500.00
 \$250.00
 Other: _____

** Steep Rock Association is a non-profit land trust, supported by your voluntary donations like yours.
Please make your checks payable to Steep Rock Association.*

For Office Use Only:

Date Received:

Insurance Received:

Date Approved:

Confirmation sent:

NOTES:

7/2018