

# Chapter 4: Be Socially Aware



RVing is a great way to make friends while out on the road, but it's important to remember that not everyone camps for the same reason. Some people enjoy being social while others prefer to relax quietly on their own. With that in mind, here are a few scenarios based on the "Be Socially Aware" section of the Campground Etiquette course video to help you practice your social awareness skills.

## | Scenarios

### 1. Cutting Through Spots

You're walking around the campground at your favorite national park, and you need to use the restroom. You spot a bathroom a few hundred feet away but it's on the other side of someone's campsite. You also notice a sidewalk leading to the bathroom a short distance past several campsites. What should you do?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** Remember not to walk through other campers' sites and to always go around the perimeter.

### 2. Slide-Outs

You just pulled into an amazing RV park that's part of a large national chain. There are tons of great amenities, including a water park, splash pad, mini golf course, and archery range, but the campsites are pretty close together. You're getting ready to extend your slide-outs. What should you check first to make sure you're being considerate to other campers?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** Always see if your slide-outs will extend into your neighbors' sites before pushing the button. Also, make sure you're as evenly spaced in your site as possible.

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## 3. Campsite Reservation

You decide to take a last-minute trip to your favorite local campground. Once you arrive at the campground you see that all of the sites are full except for one, but that site has a reserved sign on it. Should you take it?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** Don't take a campsite that's reserved even if it's at night. The campers who paid for it might show up late.

## 4. Bothering Other Campers

You're known for making the best chili in your town. It's around dinnertime and both you and your spouse notice a family sitting around the campfire a couple of campsites down from yours. You haven't spoken with them yet, but you waved at them earlier in the day. Should you bring over some chili for them to try?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** This depends on the social situation. During your first encounter, if they appear to want to be left alone, give them their space. If they seem receptive to talking or give other cues that they might be social, it's probably okay to try to get to know them.

## 5. Campers Settling in

You're at an Army Corp of Engineers park in Kentucky and you notice a young couple trying to back in their new travel trailer. They've attempted maneuvering numerous times and appear frustrated with one another since they can't quite seem to line the RV up correctly. What should you do?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Our answer:** Usually it's a good idea to give RVers time to try and park their rigs on their own. If you see inexperienced RVers or someone simply struggling with a difficult site to fit in, read the social situation and offer help. Make sure not to criticize or patronize them.

## 6. Dump Station

You're camping at a popular state park. As you pull up to the dump station near check-out time, you see a line of four RVs waiting to empty their tanks ahead of you. After a few minutes, two more RVs show up after you. What's something you can do to show good campground etiquette?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** Prepare as many dump station items in advance as you can to speed up the process, such as getting gloves, hand sanitizer, and your side compartment keys ready. Help do your part to make the dump station experience better for everyone.

## 7. Light Pollution

You just finished enjoying some evening fun with fellow campers around the campfire. Everyone enjoyed your decorative lights and even commented on how they added to the overall ambiance of the campground. Now that the social time is over and it's 10 p.m., should you leave the lights on? Why or why not?

**Your answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our answer:** Turn off your campsite lighting and exterior RV lights, or at least minimize them. Other people around you might want to enjoy the stars or could be impacted by your bright lights when trying to sleep.