

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT CAMPGROUND TERMS



- Accessible Site:** A campsite specifically built to accommodate campers with disabilities or other special needs. You may be required to show proof of need in order to reserve these sites. Also noted as “ADA” sites to represent that they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Back-In Sites:** A campsite that requires you to back your trailer or rig into the site since you enter and exit from the same side. Before booking a back-in site, be sure to practice backing up your RV.
- Boondocking:** Parking overnight in open spaces on public lands, such as national forests and those managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). May also include business parking lots and other facilities. This type of camping is usually free and does not have traditional campsites or amenities.
- Comfort Station:** A building that offers restrooms and showers.
- Dry Camping:** Camping in a designated site without hookups. You will need to supply your own water and electricity (or go without them).
- Dump Station:** A shared, designated area where you can dump your black and gray water tanks. This is helpful if you do not have sewer hookups at your campsite.
- Family Site:** A campsite with two or more sites and sets of hookups, if available. Also called a buddy site, the area will be designed so the campers’ doors face each other, creating a common area in between.
- Full Hookups:** This type of site offers water, electric, and sewer hookups. Often abbreviated as FHU.
- Honeywagon:** Some campgrounds without sewer connections at the sites offer a honeywagon service, which comes to your campsite to pump out your tanks.
- Hookups:** The utilities available at a campsite.
Electric provides power to your rig.
Water provides a water spigot.
Sewer provides a place to dump your tanks.

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- Memberships:** A number of membership services exist to provide campground access or discounts. Popular ones include Good Sam, KOA, Thousand Trails, Harvest Hosts, and more.
- Occupancy:** The number of people staying overnight at a campsite included in the reservation fee. Some campgrounds charge an additional fee for extra occupants.
- Partial Hookups:** If a site does not offer full hookups but has some utilities, it will specify whether it offers water (W), electric (E), and/or sewer (S).
- Potable Water Spigot:** This may be used to fill your fresh water tank. There may be other water spigots at the campground that are not sanitary and should not be used for your fresh water.
- Primitive Site:** Primitive sites have no hookups and are often used for tent camping.
- Pull-Through Sites:** A campsite where you pull in from one side and exit from the other. These are usually easier for novice RVers and big rigs to park in.
- Resort:** A campground that focuses on providing a high-end experience through upgraded campsites and amenities. You may find sites with deluxe patios and fire pits. Amenities may include pools, waterparks, marinas, clubhouses, and more.
- Shore Power:** Power received from electrical hookups at your campsite, as opposed to solar power or generators. Campsites will specify whether the shore power is available as 15, 20, 30, and/or 50 amp. You need to book a site that's compatible with your rig or have an adapter.
- Site Length:** The length of the driveway/parking area of your campsite. It is important to know the length of your rig (including your tow vehicle) before booking a site.

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- Slide-Out:** When making reservations, campgrounds will often ask if you have any slide-outs. This is a part of your rig that expands outward to open up the living space inside. You need to make sure your campsite's width can accommodate your slide-outs.
- Slope:** The incline or grade of the campsite. Some campgrounds detail how level a campsite is by enumerating the slope, as measured in inches per 10 feet.
- Tent Sites:** Many campgrounds have sections set aside for tents, which are not available to RVers. However, campers with pop-ups may be welcome. Check with the campground to confirm the regulations.
- Vault Toilet:** A restroom without running water. Also called a "pit toilet."
- WiFi:** Some campgrounds provide internet access to campsites or at designated areas as an amenity (sometimes, upgrades are available for a fee). Many campers find that campground WiFi is slower or less reliable than at home. RVers can purchase equipment to help boost their signal for stronger WiFi connections at campgrounds.