

HOSTELS

A. LAW, REGULATION, AND POLICY

1. Law

See Chapter 5, paragraph A, of this Guideline

2. Regulation

See Chapter 5, paragraph B.2, of this Guideline

3. Policy

See Chapter 5, Paragraph C.1.1, of this Guideline

B. GENERAL

Hosteling in the parks is basically a means by which opportunities for economical and relaxing visits to parks are provided through the utilization of simple, low-cost, overnight accommodations. It is an increasingly popular idea and encourages the use of nonmotorized modes of transportation, such as walking, hiking, biking and boating, as a means to leisurely tour and enjoy national park areas. It promotes an awareness of environmentally sensitive alternatives to elaborate and expensive overnight accommodations.

Park hostels are low-cost, usually nonprofit, supervised accommodations which facilitate and encourage energy-efficient enjoyment of parks and their surrounding regions without the need for motorized transportation. (Although the emphasis is on the encouragement of nonmotorized forms of transportation, motorized transportation is not excluded by this definition.) Such facilities will, at a minimum cost, contain sheltered, overnight, sleeping accommodations and sanitary facilities and will usually contain cooking, eating and recreational space. Hostels may be seasonal or year-round operations. They may be used for other park programs such as environmental education or interpretation. Hostel accommodations, such as huts and shelters, are encouraged where they facilitate appropriate park use and are in accordance with the statutory mandates and management goals of the park.

Hostel operations come within the purview of the Concessions Policy Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. § 20) and shall be authorized in accordance with procedures, policies and regulations consistent with that Act.

C. PLANNING FOR PARK HOSTELS

The Planning process and procedures will be handled in accordance with Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Guideline.

D. AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURES

1. Hostels may be authorized by Concession Contract or Concession Permit, including the Limited Concession Permit. The determination will be based upon the anticipated gross receipts, the proposed term of the authorization, planned improvements necessary for the operation, etc. The authorization procedures are the same for hostel operations as for any other contract or permit for concession operations as set forth in Chapter 6 and 7 of this Guideline. In any case, the Standard Concession Contract language or the Standard Concession Permit, Form 10-112, may be tailored to accommodate the needs of the hostel operation. Provisions unique to hostel operations to be included in Concession Contracts or added to Concession Permits by addendum are stipulated in Exhibit 1 of this chapter.

2. If it is found necessary and appropriate to establish a hostel operation in a national park area where there is a concessioner already authorized to provide overnight accommodations or lodging whose concessioner contract grants a preferential right to new or additional services of the same character, the Service must offer the existing concessioner the right to provide the proposed hostel accommodations, facilities, and services. Should the concessioner waive its right, a prospectus should be issued in accordance with the procedures described in Chapter 7 of this Guideline.

E. TERM

If it is necessary for a hostel operator to have an authorization with a term longer than 5 years in order to obtain grant monies and amortize any investment, a Concession Contract tailored for a hostel operation would be the proper instrument.

F. OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE PLANS

Local operating requirements and/or special maintenance needs may necessitate the addition of special provisions to the authorization. Such provisions may be included in Operating and Maintenance Plans, attached to and made a part of the concession authorization by reference. Maintenance and Operating Plans will be developed pursuant to the procedures described in Chapter 26 (to be published) of this Guideline.

#### G. RATES

All rates and prices charged to the public by the concessioner (hostel operator) are subject to regulation and approval by the National Park Service. For additional information on rates pertaining to concession operations, please refer to Chapter 18, paragraph E.1.c of this Guideline.

#### H. EVALUATION

Each hostel activity authorized by a Concession Contract, Permit or Limited Concession Permit will be subject to periodic and annual evaluations in accordance with the Operational and Contract Compliance programs in Chapters 19, 20 and 22. In most cases, the Primitive/Rustic Lodging standard in Chapter 21 will be used to evaluate overnight accommodations. Applicable elements of the Food/Beverage standard will be used to evaluate food services. The Concessioner Employee Housing standard will be used to evaluate hostel employee residential areas. For additional information on evaluations pertaining to hostel operations, please refer to Chapters 19, 20 and 22 of this Guideline.

#### I. VENDING MACHINES

Because of the type of service that a hostel provides, there may be cases when on-site vending machines would be necessary for the convenience of the visitor. Vending machine service could be authorized as a special condition to the hostel authorization at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or Regional Director if it is determined that such service is necessary. However, if there is an existing concessioner whose contract grants it a preferential right to vending machine service, or services of the same character, that concessioner must be offered the right of first refusal to provide this service regardless of who specifically provide the lodging.

#### J. MEMBERSHIP IN HOSTEL ORGANIZATIONS

The hosteler may not require membership in its organization for use of the services or facilities it provides within a national park area, and it may not discriminate in rates charged to any member of the general public or offer advantages exclusively to its members, viz, discount on rooms and/or preference on reservations.

#### K. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETIVE EFFORTS

The use of the hostel facilities and staff for the environmental education and interpretive efforts and programs which will enhance the enjoyment and

understanding of the park resources shall be encouraged. Park representatives shall assist the hostel staff in determining what is feasible and suitable based on the park's objective. However, the Park Superintendent shall make the final decision concerning what environmental education and/or interpretive services will be provided.

L. FRANCHISE FEES

Same as all other concessioners. See Chapter 24 of this Guideline.

M. LENGTH OF STAY

The length of stay in any one hostel will be limited to a maximum of three consecutive days, unless otherwise authorized by the Superintendent. In order to promote active use of the park and discourage loitering, concessioners will take steps to insure that the hostel is not occupied by guests (except during the inclement weather) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hostelers will be expected to clean and straighten up their overnight accommodations before each daily departure.

CONCESSIONS

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EXHIBIT 1  
Chapter 15  
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Following are provisions unique to hostel operations that are to be included in Concession Contracts or added to Concession Permits (Form 10-112) by addendum:

<u>Concession Contract Section No.</u>	<u>Concession Permit Section No.</u>	
2	3	Specific requirements and details of the operation are described in the Operating Plan (Exhibit "___") attached hereto and made a part hereof.
3	4	All members of the visiting public shall be treated equally in regard to rates charged and services offered. Concessioner shall not discriminate in rates charged to any member of the general public and shall not require membership in any organization for the use of the services and facilities at the concession operation.
18	12	The Concessioner shall be responsible for seeing that all members of its organization, including students, invitees, and all persons under its control are informed of, and comply with, Park rules, regulations and all applicable special conditions.
5	14	The Concessioner shall, at its expense, maintain all portions of the assigned premises in good order and condition, as described in the Maintenance Plan (Exhibit "___") attached hereto and made a part hereof.