



Special Use Permit - Scattering of Cremains

The scattering of cremated human remains (“cremains”) in Buffalo National River should be a small private affair, held away from high visitor use areas. A Special Use Permit is required in order to hold your memorial.

Permit Application Procedure

Requests for a permit application may be made in person at park headquarters, via telephone, email or letter. The application form may be downloaded from the park website. Park contact information is:

Special Park Use Coordinator
Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut St., Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

Telephone: 870-365-2702
FAX: 870-365-2701
Website: www.nps.gov/buff/
Email: buff_information@nps.gov

The information on the application will be used by NPS staff to evaluate the impact of the proposed activity on park resources and visitors. Allow at least four business days for processing. Applications are processed in the order in which they are received.

Cost Recovery

The authority for the National Park Service to recover and retain costs associated with managing special park uses is found at 16 U.S.C. 3a. Charges established for a special park use under this authority are intended to recover costs associated with managing that activity and not to generate revenue beyond actual cost. If any additional costs are incurred, the permittee will be billed at the conclusion of the permit.

Special Use Permit for:	Application Fee	Administrative Fee	Total
25 persons or less	\$50	\$50	\$100
26 persons or more	\$50	\$100	\$150

- Application Cost** Must be submitted at the time of the initial application. This is a non-refundable payment.
- Administration Cost** Payable when the permit is approved and prior to beginning the event. This is a non-refundable payment.
- Monitoring Cost** If the event requires NPS supervision for resource protection or the health or safety of visitors, the cost will be estimated and payable when the permit is approved and prior to beginning the event. The scope and complexity of the permit activity will determine the level and type of supervision. The fee includes employee travel time to and from the event location.

Permit

If your application is approved, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. Upon receipt, please review, sign and return the permit to our office for the Superintendent's signature. After the Superintendent signs the permit, a copy of the permit will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of the event.*

Terms & Conditions To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences the following conditions and requirements apply to Special Use Permits for scattering of cremains:

1. Access to the area must be kept open to the public and the memorialization cannot interfere with normal visitor activity in any manner. The park will not exclude nor allow you to exclude other park visitors from the site during the ceremony.
2. Ashes must be fully refined with no detectable remains.
3. Scattering must result in complete dispersal of ashes. Cremains may not be piled in one location or buried.
4. Scattering of cremains from the air must be performed at a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above ground level, and may not be performed over developed areas or facilities.
5. Cremains cannot be deposited within 100 yards of a flowing stream, river, spring or body of water, or within a developed area.
6. No rocks, vegetation or other natural resources will be moved, stacked, cut or disturbed in any way.
7. No monument, memorial, plaque, structure, urn, photo or other commemorative item may be left within the boundaries of Buffalo National River. Do not bring any potted plants, dried flower arrangements or any plant with seeds as these may introduce non-native or invasive species.
8. Audio devices and music shall not be used in a manner that may disturb other visitors.
9. The permit must be in your possession when scattering cremains.
10. The permittee recognizes and is aware of the sensitivity of this activity and agrees to perform it in a discreet and private manner.
11. The permittee recognizes that the National Park Service (NPS) does not commit to treating the area as sacred or as a burial ground or cemetery. Park uses, operations and programs will be continued without regard to the presence of the cremains.
12. Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in the immediate revocation of the permit.

Other stipulations may be added depending on the specific nature of your request.