



Horseshoe Bend NMP Special Uses

Weddings at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

As you consider sites for your wedding, please take note of the following requirements for such events conducted at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. To assist you in planning your wedding event, the National Park Service asks that you please read and understand the following regulations and restrictions.

Park Purpose

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park was established in 1959 to preserve and protect the site of the last major battle of the Creek Indian War of 1813/1814 and is a part of the War of 1812 events. As a result, the Park commemorates the sacrifices made by the people who fought here and the Creek Indians who were displaced in the aftermath of the Battle. Nearly 2000 people died here on March 27, 1814. As a sign of respect for this last measure of devotion, Horseshoe Bend is managed as a hallowed place. Events and activities are limited to specific non-historic areas to avoid detracting from the sacred battle sites.

Locations Available

Wedding activities are limited to:

- Lawn area adjacent to the park visitor center
- Picnic area adjacent to the park visitor center
- Picnic area adjacent to the boat ramp along the Tallapoosa River

Receptions and all other activities associated with the wedding are limited to the picnic areas only. Photographs of wedding participants may be taken throughout the park as long as activities associated with the photography comply with park rules and regulations and do not infringe on other visitors' experience.

Parking and Group Size Limitations

- Parking is extremely limited. The picnic areas are small and remain open to other visitors during your event. In consideration of this, plan on limiting your wedding to no more than 100 attendees and participants (total).
- Parking is limited to paved or gravel surfaced parking areas at the picnic areas or the eastern half of the visitor center public parking lot. Under no circumstances may wedding activities include vehicles that park or are operated off the paved or gravel surfaced roads or parking areas.
- For an event held at either picnic area, it is advisable to have attendees park at the Visitor Center (western half of the public parking lot only) and have them walk to the visitor center picnic area or shuttle them to the boat ramp picnic area.

Hours of Availability

The ceremony and all set up and take down activities must begin and conclude during the park's regular hours of operation. It is suggested that the set up, ceremony, and take down combined take no more than 2 hours.

Support and Supplemental Activities

- Public address systems or amplifiers may not be used. Non-amplified music, such as acoustic guitar, violin, flute, or similar live music is permitted. If pre-recorded music is used, the volume must be kept low enough to avoid impacting other visitor activities or experiences.
- Support items are limited to no more than two tables up to six feet in length for guest books, flower, and gift reception. A small arch or bower is permitted as long as no ground disturbance or other resource impact occurs in placement. Folding chairs are permitted as long as they do not impact park resources. All items must be transported by hand to/from the closest parking area.
- All resources of the Park are protected. To insure this, it is not permissible to throw rice, bird seed, or similar materials. Feeding wildlife is illegal.
- Nothing may be affixed via nails, staples, bolts, or similar intrusive devices. Additionally, tape should not be used as it can mar a painted surface. No branches, twigs, or other natural features should be removed, broken, or disturbed in preparing or conducting the event.
- No signs, placards, or other notices may be placed to direct attendees or otherwise disrupt the visitor experience. No park features or facilities may be marked or painted in any way.
- Use the picnic shelters and tables remains on a first come/first served basis. The receipt of a Special Use Permit does not reserve or guarantee the use or availability of a shelter.

Responsibilities

- A Special Use Permit application must be completed and returned to the park's Special Use Permit Coordinator along with a non-refundable processing fee of \$50.00 in the form of a personal check or money order made payable to the **National Park Service**. The application and fee can be sent to:

Horseshoe Bend NMP
c/o Special Use Permit Coordinator
11288 Horseshoe Bend Road
Daviston, AL 36256

- The park and all its facilities remain open to all during your event. Other visitors may join in your event out of curiosity or in support and should not be excluded.
- The wedding party is responsible for insuring that all signs of the event are completely removed and the area restored to its original condition.