



## Scattering of Ashes

The scattering of cremated human remains (“cremains”) in Ozark National Scenic Riverways 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. Several important conditions must be considered in your plans and are listed below.

**Applications:** Complete the *Application for Special Use Permit*. There is no processing fee for this activity. Please review the **Terms & Conditions** listed below prior to submitting your permit application as they outline the specific requirements and restrictions of the permit. Mail the completed application to: Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Attn: Commercial Services Program Office, P. O. Box 490, Van Buren, Missouri 63965.

**Permits:** 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 signed copy of the permit will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of the ceremony.*

**Terms & Conditions:** To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences the following restrictions 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 Ozark National Scenic Riverways. 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.

If you have any questions about the application process or your permit, please contact the Commercial Services Program Office at (573) 323-4864, or email: [peggy\\_tarrence@nps.gov](mailto:peggy_tarrence@nps.gov).

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