

February 15, 1997

Park Directive 1040

**CHURCH SERVICES IN STATE PARKS**

The following guidelines will be observed in connection with permitting religious services to be held in state parks. Sensitivity should be used in explaining these guidelines to organizations using your park for church services. In delicate situations, please make your regional supervisor and the State Parks Director aware of your approach in advance.

- I. Church services will be regulated under the supervision of the Park Superintendent/Museum Director in provisional cooperation with the local ministerial alliance.
- II. A facility with group capacity, i.e., amphitheater or pavilion, will be designated for church services by the Park Superintendent/Museum Director and will be reserved expressly for church services during a specified time. Any "Reserved for Church Service" signs will be portable and used only on the date of services.
- III. Church services should be scheduled for no more than one hour, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Changes in times and locations of such services will be done only with prior approval from the Park Superintendent/Museum Director. Due consideration will be given to non-participating park visitors.
- IV. All youth volunteer church services will be approved by the Park Superintendent/Museum Director and will comply with all other aspects of this policy. Youth church services will not be included as a part of park interpretive programs.

V. Church services must be interdenominational and open to all park visitors.

Charges, collections, and/or donations of any nature are prohibited.

VI. Publicizing of all church services will be limited posted notices on designated bulletin boards only. Notices will stress informality of dress of participants.

VII. Amplification Systems that disturb non-participants will not be authorized for church services. If utilized, musical instruments, such as pianos and organs, will not be permitted to remain in the park following services.

VIII. Other than service animals for individuals with disabilities, pets will not be permitted to accompany participants.

Replaces PD 1040 dated May 15, 1991

APPROVED BY

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GREG BUTTS, DIRECTOR  
Arkansas State Parks

