

# TEMPORARY CAMPGROUNDS IN JACKSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

*On February 21, 2017, the Jackson County Board adopted [Ordinance #2017-02](#) “An Ordinance Regulating Temporary campgrounds” (referred to below as “the Ordinance”). The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain the Ordinance and provide guidance to those who wish to establish temporary campgrounds. This Ordinance establishes easily achieved, minimal standards for temporary campgrounds, while protecting public health & safety.*

*Please review this information and contact Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) at 618/684-3143, ext. 128 if you have any questions. Information can also be located at*

### **What is a temporary campground?**

A “temporary campground” is defined as “an area of land set aside for the business of providing entertainment or recreation by accommodating persons in house trailers, recreational vehicles or tents.” A temporary campground may operate up to 5 camping nights per year, unless they only allow up to two RVs or tents, in which case there is no limit per number of camping nights per year.

### **What campgrounds are required to register with Jackson County?**

Any property owner who desires to establish a temporary campground for monetary gain must register with the Jackson County Health Department, using a [standard registration form](#) and paying the required \$20.00 fee.

### **What is meant by the term “monetary gain”?**

Monetary gain means the direct or indirect receipt of money, goods or services in exchange for allowing camping on a property. If no monetary gain is received, then a campground does not meet the definition of the Ordinance, and no registration is required.

### **What campgrounds are not required to register with Jackson County?**

- Campgrounds located within the corporate limits of any municipality
- Campgrounds located at publicly-owned recreational park facilities.
- Campgrounds required to obtain a permit from the State of Illinois under the [Illinois Campground Licensing and Recreational Act](#).
- Campgrounds where no direct or indirect monetary gain is received by owners/operators.

**At what point should temporary campgrounds register with Jackson County?**

For temporary campgrounds which are subject to Jackson County Ordinance #2017-02, registration must be performed annually, with the registration year running March 1 to the end of February the following year. The annual registration fee is \$20.00, with no prorating for partial year registration. For temporary campgrounds wishing to be open for the August 2017 eclipse weekend, JCHD recommends registering prior to the end of July 2017 to allow time for review of applications and to schedule on-site inspections.

**Can developers of temporary campgrounds discuss their proposed campgrounds with local officials prior to submitting a registration?**

Yes, campground developers are encouraged to contact Jackson County Health Department during the design/development stage to discuss proposed ideas and hopefully come up with solutions satisfactory to all parties.

**What campgrounds are required to obtain a permit from the State of Illinois?**

Campgrounds which operate more than 5 nights a year are required to get a State permit, unless the campground only allows two or less RVs or tents at any one time. Campgrounds which operate more than 5 nights per year, in general, need a State permit, although there are some limited exceptions. Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health in Marion at 618-993-7010 for more information. You may also visit [IDPH's web page on camping](#) for details.

**Is there a limit to the number of camp spaces, RVs, tents, or individuals at any one temporary campground?**

No such limit is established under Jackson County Ordinance #2017-02. Please remember, however, that a temporary campground with more than two RVs/tents may only be open 5 nights or less per year. Also, campground developers should keep in mind the amount of space not only required for each camp space, but also space for the following: off-road parking of all vehicles; ingress/egress of traffic, including emergency vehicles; portable toilet and hand wash facilities; the required emergency care location; refuse collection containers; licensed food vendors; etc. If public health and public safety officials believe the proposed space will not safely accommodate the proposed level of use, they may require campground developers to lessen the intensity of proposed use.

**What are the requirements to sell/provide food at a temporary campground?**

All food service performed or provided at a campground must conform to the Jackson County Food Service Sanitation Ordinance. Those selling/providing food must have either an annual permit issued by JCHD, or a temporary food permit. Click [here](#) to see Jackson County's temporary food service guidelines and click [here](#) to see the permit application form. A \$50 fee applies to temporary food service operations. Inspections of food service operations are performed by JCHD staff to ensure conformance with public health standards. **NOTE: this**

**requirement applies to all campgrounds located in Jackson County, not just ones that fall under the County's temporary campground ordinance.**

**What are the waste (refuse) collection requirements for temporary campgrounds?**

Campgrounds shall have a sufficient number of plastic or metal refuse containers with tight-fitting lids, which must be placed within convenient distance to all users. Rolling carts or cans, or dumpsters, are acceptable. The campground shall have sufficient refuse storage capacity on-site for all the refuse it expects to be generated. For example, for the August 2017 eclipse weekend, campgrounds should have enough capacity in carts or dumpsters to hold all waste that will be generated on-site that long weekend.

Call Jackson County Health Department (618-684-3143 x 128) for a list of waste haulers licensed to operate in Jackson County.

**What are the traffic safety & parking requirements for temporary campgrounds?**

No activity (such as setting up a tent, parking an RV, building a fire, etc.) may occur within 5 feet of any roadway, whether that be a public road or an on-site road within the campground. Parking shall be made available off of public roadways for all vehicles; no parking allowed alongside roads or on public right-of-ways. Public and on-site roads need to be clear for public safety and to allow for passage of emergency vehicles.

**What are the emergency care requirements for temporary campgrounds?**

Each campground shall have an accessible area designed for emergency medical care with at least one sufficiently stocked first aid kit provided. In this area shall also be conspicuously posted the location of the nearest hospital, as well as local emergency phone numbers and campground manager phone numbers. At least one Class ABC or Class BC fire extinguisher shall also be provided; JCHD suggests locating the fire extinguisher at the emergency medical care area. JCHD recommends posting an easily readable sign stating "First Aid & Fire Extinguisher" in this location.

**Are campfires allowed at temporary campgrounds?**

Yes, campfires are allowed, so long as they are not built within 10 feet of any vehicle, building or tent. Only fire wood may be burned; no burning of waste materials, lumber, pallets, etc.

**What are the requirements for toilets and hand washing facilities at temporary campgrounds?**

A sufficient number of portable toilet and hand washing facilities shall be provided in accordance with guidance from Jackson County Health Department. Click [here](#) for the portable sanitation guidance. Portable toilets must be provided by a provider licensed by Jackson County Health Department. To see a list of current providers, click [here](#) and look under the

column labeled “Pumper”. If you’d like to use a provider not on our list, have them contact JCHD about getting licensed.

If the campground makes use of buildings or other facilities which have toilets and sinks plumbed to a private sewage system, then the system must be capable of handling the proposed load in accordance with the [Jackson County Private Sewage Disposal System Ordinance](#).

**What are the potable water supply requirements for temporary campgrounds in Jackson County?**

Temporary campgrounds are not required to provide potable water to individuals utilizing the campground. If they choose to provide potable water, then it must be done in accordance with the [Public Area Sanitary Practice Code](#) (Sect. 895.20), the [Illinois Plumbing Code](#), and other applicable State requirements. All plumbing work must be performed by an Illinois-licensed plumber. Consult with Jackson County Health Department (618-684-3143 x 128) to ensure all potable water meets public health standards.

**Will temporary campgrounds be inspected by local authorities?**

Temporary campgrounds authorized under Jackson County Ordinance #2017-02 are subject to inspection at any time by county health department officials and local law enforcement. The location of registered temporary campgrounds will be shared by JCHD with first responders to provide more timely response in case of medical emergencies, neighbor complaints, etc.

If Jackson County Health Department conducts an inspection and finds non-compliance with any County health ordinances, then the campground owner will receive a Notice to Correct. The time for the required corrections will differ, depending on the severity of the issue. For serious violations, or continuing non-compliance, the Jackson County State’s Attorney’s Office will be consulted for formal enforcement procedures. Civil fines up to \$1,000 per day are allowed for under Ordinance #2017-02.

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