



Mississippi Headwaters Hostel

Itasca State Park
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Hostel Orientation & Packing Suggestions 2009

Thank you for choosing to stay with us in Itasca State Park. We really appreciate your business. Here is a brief orientation and a few suggestions to make your stay go smoothly and successfully...

Hostel Customs

Hostels are based on a spirit of community and shared space. Whether you are an individual traveler, a family or a group staying at the hostel, we urge you to interact with those around you and to be mindful of the other guests at the hostel. Our guests help us to keep the hostel pristine by cleaning up after themselves and sharing in hostel chores before leaving. Please ask the manager if you care to assist in hostel upkeep.

Sleeping Rooms

There are six bedrooms in the hostel, each with either 4, 5 and 6 beds to a room. All beds in the hostel are twin size bunk beds. The hostel provides pillows and blankets for all of the beds.

Linens

We provide linens free-of-charge for individuals and families. For groups there is a laundry surcharge of \$5 per individual for a full set of sheets and towel for the duration of your stay. Groups may choose to bring their own linens to avoid this fee. **Please note: Sleeping bags are only allowed during winter months, from October 1st – April 1st.** We cannot allow sleeping bags during the summer months.

Bathrooms

Guests should bring their own **bath towels**. The bathrooms are cleaned often and are equipped with toilet paper and air hand dryers. Guests should provide all of their own toiletries. There are plug-ins for hair dryers, etc.

Kitchen

The kitchen is equipped with pots, pans, bakeware, pancake griddle, coffeemakers, cooking utensils, toasters, silverware, dishes and dish towels. The hostel has one microwave oven, two stoves, and two refrigerators with small freezers. There are also three sinks. In short, the hostel provides everything you will need to prepare and eat your meals. Just bring the food.

Internet: We have free Wi-Fi internet for all guests to use. Bring your laptop if you need to.

Payment: Payment may be made by cash, personal check or Mastercard/Visa credit cards.

Packing Suggestions

Guests may want to consider packing...

- Bath towel, bed sheets + pillowcase (sleeping bags allowed October 1st through April 1st)
- Toiletries, insect repellent, sunscreen, rain jackets, hiking shoes, slippers or flip flops
- Food, drinking water, cooler, dishsoap, specialty cookware (i.e. wok, wafflemaker, etc.)
- Charcoal, lighter fluid, matches/lighter, newspaper for outdoor fire pit and grill
- Lawn chairs, yard games, board games, books
- Small fan, portable radio (The hostel has no TV, but does have a library and some games.)
- Bicycles, fishing gear, hiking gear, birding gear, camera

Other Notes

- The hostel has central air conditioning for the hottest part of the summer. It also has forced air heat and one fireplace for use during winter. It is comfortable year-round.
- Vehicle stickers are required to enter Itasca State Park. Fees are \$5 daily, \$25 annual.
- There is no smoking or pets allowed in the hostel.
- Itasca Sports, a bicycle and boat rental business, is across the road from the hostel: see www.itascasports.com for info.
- The Lake Itasca beach is a 10 min. walk. The Mississippi Headwaters is a 20 min. walk.
- **Due to pests, you must now purchase firewood from the park if you wish to have a fire in the fireplace at the hostel. This is a state law. We do not sell wood at the hostel.**