

Regulations for Use of Duke Forest Recreational Shelters

Social or university-related gatherings are permitted at the Rigsbee Shelter (Gate F) and the Bobby Ross, Jr. Memorial Shelter (Gate C), both located off of NC 751. Picnic areas must be reserved through the Office of the Duke Forest prior to using a site. Parties using a site will be permitted to use the site on the day(s) on which they have reserved and paid for the site. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is Duke Forest policy to reserve sites for one party per day. Please keep in mind that Duke Forest Staff is only able to visit the shelters once during the work week so there will be no site inspections or trash collection between reservations on a given weekend.

The following rules have been established for your protection and the protection of the Forest. Any person(s) found in violation of these rules may be prohibited from using Duke Forest sites in the future:

1. Picnic sites must be left clean and all site amenities, e.g. picnic tables, must be left undisturbed and in the condition they were found in. The cleaning and pick-up at the site must be completed by the end of the rental period, which means by 11:59pm on the day of the event.
2. All trash must be properly disposed of in the containers provided at each site. Trash barrels have been provided and are emptied weekly. Please recycle your materials using the labeled recycle bins.
3. Picnic sites close at 11:00 p.m. All persons except for event organizers and/or designated clean-up persons must be off the site by 11:00 p.m. Anyone else remaining past 11:00 p.m. will be considered trespassers.
4. No fires of any kind are permitted, except in grills the Ross Shelter fireplace and fire ring at Gate F. ***Fires may be prohibited in periods of high fire danger weather.***
5. Gates must not be blocked at any time. Please park all vehicles so that access is not restricted to the picnic sites. Place links aside when opening gate. ***Do Not Drive Over Links.***
6. Lock gates (scramble the tumblers on the combination lock) prior to leaving site.
7. No amplified sound is permitted.
8. No vegetation may be cut, picked, scarred or damaged in any way.
9. No hunting and no weapons are permitted.
10. No camping is permitted.
11. No rock and/or tree climbing is permitted.
12. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted at the Gate C and F sites so long as all applicable laws and University regulations are followed. Alcoholic beverages must not be served to minors.

PICNIC SITE INFORMATION

Bobby Ross, Jr. Memorial Shelter (Gate C):

Includes a picnic shelter with a fireplace and four large picnic tables (50-75 person capacity) plus a grill. Site does not have an outhouse, electricity or running water. Shelter is situated at a trailhead for the Shepherd Nature Trail, a self-guided 1.25-mile trail through the surrounding Forest. Fee: \$35.00

Directions: Follow NC 751 northwest towards U.S. 70. Pass Constitution Drive on right; Gate C will be second gate on right past Constitution.

R.L. Rigsbee Shelter (Gate F):

Includes a picnic shelter and tables (50-person capacity), grill, outhouse and volleyball court (net and ball not provided). Site does offer electricity but no running water. Fee: \$40.00 Directions: Follow NC 751 north towards U.S. 70. Pass Kerley Rd; Gate F will be on the left immediately after Gate 12 and before RR bridge.

Shelter Reservations:

Contact the Office of the Duke Forest at (919) 613-8013 to check on shelter availability and to arrange payment for the shelter rental.

