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Whether it's your first time camping at Martha's Vineyard Family Campground, or your first time camping in general, there are many things you should know to help you prepare for your upcoming camping trip. From what to bring and when to arrive, to a packing checklist and a few classic camping recipes, we are here to help you make your getaway as smooth as possible. Keep reading for 7 things first time campers should know before they embark on their camping adventure!



Check-In & Check-Out Times

First things first - make sure you are aware of what time check-in and check-out is! At Martha's Vineyard Family Campground, these times vary depending on if you are staying in a cabin or campsite:

CABINS - Check-In/Out: 3pm/11am

CAMPSITES - Check-In/Out: 3pm/11am

Don't worry if you can't arrive to our Camp-Resort until late evening (or even 2am) to check-in - our team is flexible and is here to help! If you know that you won't be able to arrive until after our office closes, give us a call at (508) 693-3772 or email us at info@mvcamping.com, and we will make arrangements with you. We want your first camping experience to be as simple as possible!

Are you interested in checking-in early or using our attractions after check-out time? These options are based on availability and require a small fee. If you're looking to check-in early, please give us a call **24 hours prior** to your arrival to see if early access is available. If you'd like extended access, visit us at our office during check-out to see if it's available. Please note that early and extended access does not guarantee that you will be able to access your site, only that you can use our facilities and attractions.



Camping Checklist

Wondering what to bring for camping in a cabin, tent, or RV? You've probably already made a list of common items to pack like clothing, swimsuits, sunscreen, and snacks - but odds are, there may be some items that you wish you would have thought of bringing but forgot to pack. Lucky for you, we made a short list of these items you may be forgetting that would be a good idea to bring no matter if you're camping in a cabin, tent, or in the comforts of your own RV:

- **Dishes and Utensils:** Our cabins do not include dishes or utensils, so be sure to pack your own for your stay!

- **Marshmallow/Hot Dog Roasting Forks:** Planning a campfire night? Don't forget to bring roasting forks for making s'mores and roasting hot dogs around the fire!
- **Water Bottles:** Save the planet (and your wallet) by bringing a reusable water bottle. We have various places where you can fill up your water bottle so you stay hydrated all day.
- **Bug Spray:** What's a camping trip without the great outdoors? Don't forget to bring some bug spray - you'll want this nearby when making s'mores around the campfire!
- **Towels/Bedding:** Shower towels, hand towels, dish towels, bedding (if in one of our cabins) and pool towels are a must!
- **Raincoat/Umbrella:** The weather can be unpredictable - be sure to add a raincoat and/or an umbrella to your camping checklist!
- **Lawn Chairs:** Get comfy around your site with family and friends by bringing enough lawn chairs for all. Or, bring some blankets to lay on



Camping With Pets

Don't leave your furry friend at home! Bring them along when you stay at one of our pet-friendly RV sites at the campground. Dogs are required to be kept on a leash at all times, and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets, so be sure to bring plenty of doggie bags.

If you're bringing your dog during peak season, keep in mind that many beaches do not allow dogs during the summer months. Be sure to check local beach policies before your trip. And, of course, don't forget to pack plenty of pet food, water, and treats for your four-legged camping companion!



Locking In Your Site - What It Means And Why You May Want To Do It

You may have heard of the term “locking in” your cabin or campsite - but what does that really mean? If you lock in your site, you are *guaranteed* the specific site number that you booked. For example, if you book cabin #12 and lock it in during check-out, you will be given cabin #12 during your stay. On the other hand, if you select cabin #12 but do not lock it in, you will be given the same cabin type, but may be placed in a different cabin number. As a good rule of thumb, this is when you should or should not lock in your site:

- **When to lock in:**
 - You are camping with a group of people and want to be next to each other.
 - You love the location of a specific site number and don't want to be anywhere else.
- **When to *not* lock in:**
 - You don't care where you're located, just that you are in the same site type.

We hope this explanation helps you better understand our lock in feature. If you haven't locked in and decided you want to, please give us a call at (508) 693-3772 or email us at info@mvcamping.com.



Camping Recipes

One of the main perks about a camping trip is camping meals around the campfire! We rounded up our favorite breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert camping recipes that you must try during your getaway.

- **Breakfast:** Start your morning out right with [Camping Breakfast Sandwiches](#)! This camping recipe is ridiculously easy and full of protein. All you need is a cast iron skillet, english muffins, eggs, cheese, and meat of your choice. Yum!
- **Lunch:** Everyone loves a good no bake/cook camping meal! Enjoy one of these [Fruit and Nut Peanut Butter Stuffed Tortillas](#) on the go or while relaxing. Pack some tortillas, peanut butter, ripe bananas, and a variety of dried fruits and nuts. Put it all together and you have the perfect camping meal everyone will love.
- **Dinner:** This [Campfire Pizza](#) recipe is a must have and is so easy to customize for picky eaters! This camping recipe requires pizza crust, pizza sauce, cheese, and your favorite pizza toppings. Talk about easy and delicious!
- **Dessert:** These [Campfire Cones](#) will make your taste buds very happy! With just a few simple ingredients (waffle cones, marshmallows, fruit, and other toppings of your choice), this camping recipe is sure to be a crowd favorite. Even looking at the picture makes us drool...



Guest Dashboard

You may be feeling overwhelmed with information, but there's no need to worry. We created a [Guest Dashboard](#) that you can access both before and during your stay that's great for both first time campers and those that have stayed with us time and time again! The Guest Dashboard lists out everything from hours of operation, activity schedules, dining options, the Camp-Resort map, and so much more. We recommend bookmarking this page for easy access during your stay!

We hope this list helps our first time campers feel more prepared and comfortable leading up to their camping getaway. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our reservations team. Until then, we look forward to seeing you soon!