

*Virginia State Parks*



# WHY ARE THERE NO BALLOONS IN SPACE?

Helping Park Guests Understand the Fate of Balloons

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# Virginia State Parks

## CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS



*Gazebo at Twin Lake State Park*



# Virginia State Parks

## EVENTS



*Strawberry Festival at  
Sky Meadows State Park*

# Virginia State Parks



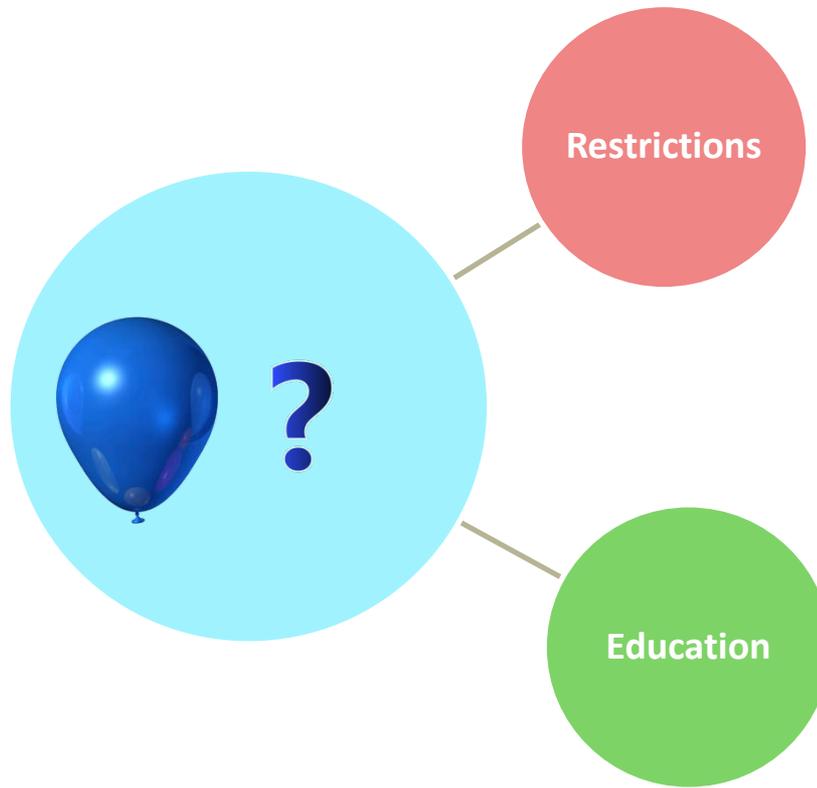
*Trash can and cigarette butt disposal  
at Claytor Lake SP*



*Recycling station at Belle Isle SP*



## ENCOURAGING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE



**2015 Virginia State Parks  
attendance: 8,882,941**



## RESTRICTIONS

**Banning release of helium balloons and sky lanterns**

**- OR -**

**Banning helium balloons and sky lanterns altogether**

**Challenge:** Informing park users about the restrictions

**Challenge:** Enforcement



# Virginia State Parks



Kiosk at Douthat SP

## POSTING INFORMATION

### Virginia State Parks

## False Cape State Park

Virginia Beach, Virginia

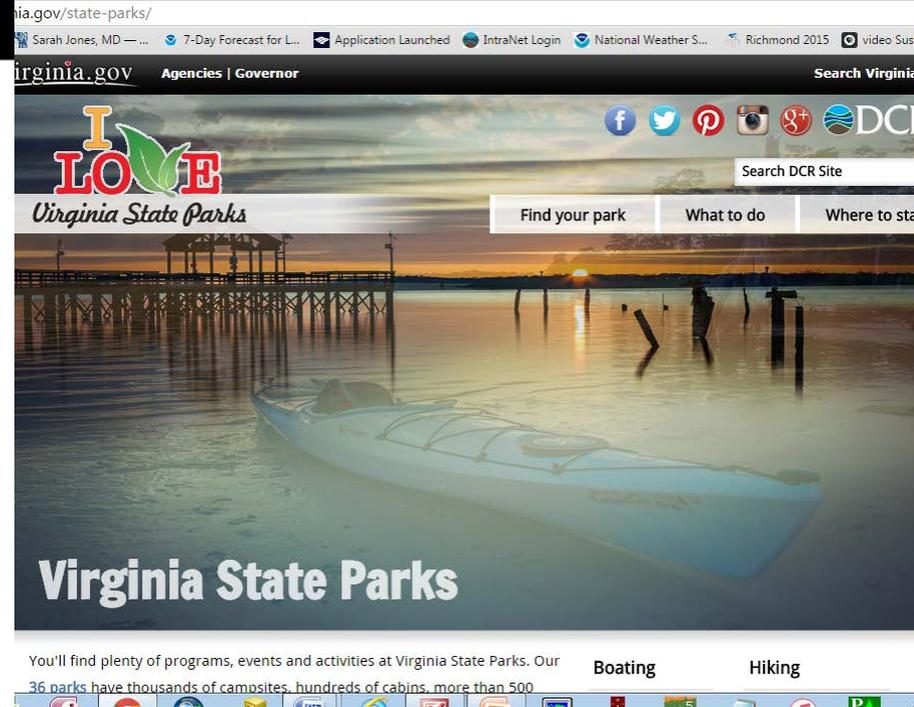
TRAIL  
GUIDE

**VIRGINIA STATE PARKS ARE A TONIC  
FOR THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT.**  
Museums, visitor centers and  
nearby historic sites make state  
parks cultural treasures.

The recreational opportunities in  
state parks are endless and easy to  
see – from swimming and boating  
to horseshoes and hiking, there's  
always something to do in a  
Virginia State Park.



[WWW.VIRGINIASTATEPARKS.GOV](http://WWW.VIRGINIASTATEPARKS.GOV)  
800-933-PARK





# Virginia State Parks

## RESTRICTIONS THAT EDUCATE

### **Current text:**

*“LITTER - Please help us keep the park clean by placing litter and recyclables in the proper receptacles and recycle centers or carrying out your trash.”*



### **Change to:**

*“LITTER – Please help us keep the park clean by placing trash, recyclables, and cigarette butts in the proper receptacles and recycle centers or carrying out your trash. Please do not release helium balloons or sky lanterns, as they become litter when they land.”*





Virginia State Parks



Search DCR Site

Find your park

What to do

Where to stay

Home » Rules and Regulations

# General Park Rules and Regulations

We want your visit with us to be as relaxing and trouble-free as possible. Before you arrive, please become familiar with these few simple facts about Virginia State Parks. Observe the rules and regulations while staying at your park.

*Natural surroundings:* Help preserve your park. Please do not cut or scar any plants or trees. Collecting any animal or plant is strictly prohibited except by permit from Richmond state parks headquarters or as allowed by the park during environmental education programming. Remember, take only pictures and leave only footprints. And refrain from feeding wild animals.

*Litter:* Litter and garbage are unsightly and attract and injure animals. Please use the trash dumpsters if available or pack all trash out in our trash-free parks.

*May I bring alcoholic beverages?* State law permits alcohol use only in private areas (inside a cabin or camping unit) or in areas designated on permits issued by the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

*Trails:* Help prevent trail erosion. Walk along designated trails only. Mountain bikes are permitted only on roads and bike trails, not hiking trails. Our trails will take you to the most scenic areas of your park. Please don't create your own trail.

*Fireworks:* Fireworks are prohibited.

*Fishing:* Where permitted, valid Virginia fishing licenses are required. Remember, saltwater and special trout waters require licenses too.

# Virginia State Parks



***“Cigarette butts are trash too! The filters in cigarette butts contain toxic chemicals which harm the environment. Please do not release helium balloons and sky lanterns, as they become litter when they land that can suffocate or entangle wildlife.”***



# Virginia State Parks



*Picnic shelter at Bear Creek Lake SP*

## FACILITIES



*Cedar Crest Conference Center, Twin Lakes SP*

# Virginia State Parks

- Caterers must provide a certificate of insurance and a valid health department permit. Park staff can provide a list of caterers. Caterers are charged a commercial user's parking fee. It is recommended that the group contact the park to pay this fee.
- A rental Terms of Agreement form must be read and signed before the date of the event.
- Decorations are permitted but may not be attached to painted surfaces and may not damage the facility in any way. Renters are responsible for damages or any excess cleaning of the facility required after the event.
- Those renting the hall are exempt from parking fees so long as they identify themselves as such at the contact station.
- No linens provided.
- No smoking allowed inside Bear Creek Hall

## FACILITY RENTAL AGREEMENTS

- Conference facilities
- Meeting halls
- Picnic shelters
- Amphitheaters

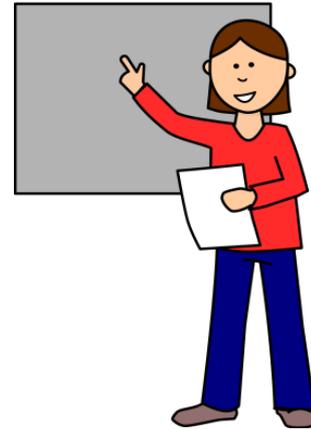
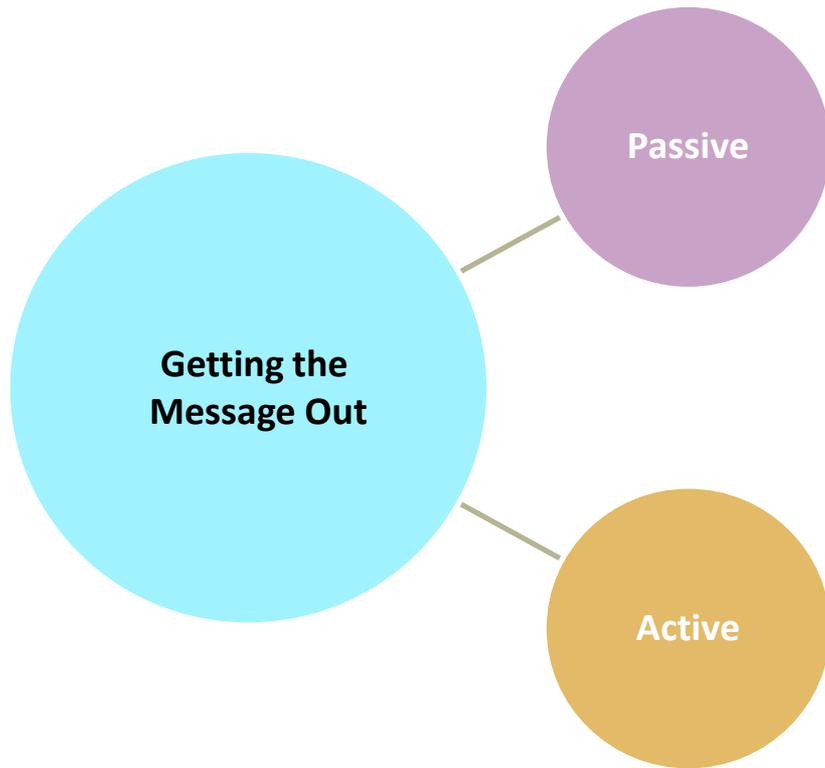
## SPECIAL USE PERMITS

- Events



# Virginia State Parks

## EDUCATION THAT RESTRICTS (improper behavior)



# Virginia State Parks

## Development of informational flyer

- With assistance from
  - Clean Virginia Waterways
  - Virginia State Parks interpretive staff
  - Virginia State Parks marketing staff
- Posted on [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov) (under “Things to Know”)
- Available at all park offices, visitor centers, and nature centers
- Handed out at interpretive events
  - Within Virginia State Parks
  - Outreach Outside of Virginia State Parks
    - ❖ Schools
    - ❖ Community Events
    - ❖ Non-profits

## PASSIVE EDUCATION



Source:  
Clean Virginia Waterways



# Virginia State Parks



*Interpretive program at York River SP*

## ACTIVE EDUCATION

### Virginia State Parks Interpretive Programming

- Woven throughout programming
- Programs within Virginia State Parks
- Outreach programs
  - Schools
  - Museums





A project of the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program, Virginia Beach, VA

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## PROPS AND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES



# Virginia State Parks

## STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

05/31/2016	State Park	Events	
05/02/2016 5:00 p.m.	Belle Isle State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Friends of Belle Isle Meeting
05/07/2016 1:00 p.m.	Powhatan State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Spring Stewardship- James River Cleanup
05/08/2016 2:00 p.m.	Bear Creek Lake State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Friends of Bear Creek Lake
05/10/2016 9:00 a.m.	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Garden Workday in Paradise
	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Spring Stewardship Virginia
	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Friends Beach Cleanup
	Chippokes Plantation State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Spring Stewardship- James River Cleanup
	Pocahontas State Park	Volunteer Special Events	Friends of Pocahontas State Park Meeting



# Virginia State Parks

## ACTIVE EDUCATION

### DCR - Office of Environmental Education

- **Adopt-a-Stream**
  - 1,326 bags of litter collected in 2015!
- **Stewardship Virginia**
  - Twice annually
  - Includes water quality programs
- **Your Backyard Classroom: K-12 science and social studies lesson plans tailored for use in parks and natural areas**
  - “Where Does It Come From? Where Does It Go?” Program specifically about litter



# Virginia State Parks

Why do helium balloons rise? **Are helium balloons safe?** WHERE DO HELIUM BALLOONS GO? **WHY DO HELIUM BALLOONS DEFLATE?** When were helium balloons invented? Where do helium balloons end up? **Are helium balloons recyclable?** I want to sell helium balloons. *Would a helium-filled balloon float on the moon?* Why do helium balloons float in air? How helium balloons float. Can a balloon jeopardize a jet line? **ARE HELIUM BALLOONS FLAMMABLE?** Why do helium balloons fall? Where do helium balloons go in the sky? **Are helium balloons bad for the env** **Questions?** CAN A HELIUM BALLOON LIFT? *What to do with helium balloons?* What happens when you let a helium balloon go to the sky? **Helium Donald Duck effect.** **WHEN DO HELIUM BALLOONS FALL?** I want to buy a helium tank for balloons. How helium balloons are made. *Which helium balloons last the longer?* What will happen if a balloon is released on the moon? **I want to buy helium balloons.** What temperature do helium balloons deflate? *Who invented helium balloons?* When do helium balloons deflate? **Who can fill helium balloons?** Where buy helium balloons? **How helium balloons work.** *What happens when you put a helium-filled balloon in the refrigerator?*