

Scenic Hot Springs

Request for Permission to Visit

About Scenic Hot Springs

Scenic Hot Springs is located on forty acres of private property in-holding, bounded on all four sides by National Forest near Stevens Pass. This private property has been dedicated to remain in as pristine a state as possible while still providing an opportunity for people to enjoy the unique relaxing and therapeutic experience of soaking in natural hot springs. The main feeds at Scenic Hot Springs run 115F and 105F, respectively, except for the May-June spring snowmelt which brings the hotter feed down to 50-60F for a few weeks before rebounding back to 115F in late spring. The predominant dissolved mineral in the hot springs water is lithium, which might explain why everyone is so mellow after soaking at Scenic.

During the spring months only the 105F feed will be used, limiting the number of visitors during the day. Be sure to check conditions prior to requesting access . . . and an after-trip report is always welcome by the stewards . . . Matt or Rick.

Scenic Hot Springs is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to re-open to the general public. This is a long, expensive and arduous process; necessitating strict access controls to the property. Everyone who wishes to visit must have advance permission balanced against on-site evaluation, inspections, and improvement work. Permit-related activities take precedence over requests for visits. Additionally, large bookings may result in closing the springs for exclusive access. Likewise, volunteer clean-up parties (to help remove trash and improve trails) will result in the closing of the hot springs to individual requests. Please be considerate of these events.

Scenic Hot Springs is nudity-friendly, as is typical of wilderness-situated rustic hot springs. You may wear as much or as little clothing for your comfort as you wish within the property (including the trails and springs area). However, lewd activity (or any activity that discomforts others) will not be tolerated and will result in your expulsion from the property without recourse.

To Gain Access

Step One: Read the Conditions of Access following this section before asking if it would be possible to visit. Supply the following information in an email to scenichotsprings@gmail.com stating that you “explicitly accept the Conditions of Access required prior to a visit to Scenic”:

Name of Responsible Party: _____

Desired Date & Time of Visit: _____ No of People: _____

A statement by yourself, and anybody else under your request, that all members “have read and will abide by the Conditions of Access while on the Scenic Hot Springs property”.

Step Two: Give back. If the date you request is available, make a contribution via the Paypal button on the Scenic website at <http://scenichotsprings.blogspot.com> to help offset maintenance costs. Give a least a few days advance notice to process your request. If short notice, email a copy of the completed PayPal transaction to scenichotsprings@gmail.com facilitate the process:

Mon-Fri visits: A contribution (\$5 x no. of people) of \$ _____ ,

Sat, Sun (and Holiday) visits: A contribution (\$10 x no. of people) of \$ _____ ,

Supply the make, color and license number of the vehicle you plan on using:

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Step Three: We will email permission good for only the day you request. Please make two copies of this email. Carry one with you and place the other copy on the dash of your car.

If by some chance you are unable to visit the day you asked for we will try to accommodate you at a future date. Contributions are non-refundable.

By going through the above steps you acknowledge that you have read the Conditions of Access below and that you (and all members of your party) accept them. You also acknowledge that you are 18 or over.

Conditions of Access

Scenic Hot Springs is PRIVATE PROPERTY and you must agree to abide by the owner's wishes, terms and conditions prior to conditional access. Application for a reservation constitutes acceptance of the following terms and conditions:

- 1) You acknowledge the rugged nature of the terrain you wish to visit and the nature of soaking in natural hot springs. You understand that the hot springs are not chlorinated and that sanitary conditions can not be guaranteed in such a primitive location. You will be appropriately prepared for unpredictable weather conditions and steep, rough terrain. You assume for yourself and your guests, any and all risks, implicit and explicit, while on the property known as Scenic Hot Springs. Your guests, by accompanying you, acknowledge and accept these risks and likewise release the owner and stewards from liability.
- 2) Minors under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by a legally-responsible adult guardian. Parents or guardians are responsible to control the behavior of their children.
- 3) No children under the age of six (6). Young children do not have fully-developed thermo-regulatory systems, making soaking in the hot temperatures of the hot springs a potential danger of hyperthermia or heat stroke with few warning signs.
- 4) The pools are for soaking. Do not swim, horseplay, or dive in the pools! Keep your head above water to avoid inadvertently inhaling water and the algae present in all natural hot springs.
- 5) Do not soak in the pools if you have open sores, an infectious skin condition, or suffer from intestinal distress. These pools are communal and you have a responsibility to fellow soakers. Make restroom breaks before entering pools. Rinse yourself off before entering pools.
- 6) No Nighttime Soaking: Myself, and my guests will be OFF THE SITE before sunset. For our purposes, sunset is defined as the moment the sun dips below the mountain ridgelines as seen from the springs. Give yourself adequate time to be off the property before darkness descends abruptly on the trail.
- 7) No Fires or Campfires: I understand that this is a fire restricted area.
- 8) No Dogs or other pets, No Camping, No Firearms, No Glass Containers, period.
- 9) Alcohol in moderation (preferably none).
- 10) Respect the site by soaking quietly and respectfully of other soakers who may be up there. Stay on the trails and take all litter out with you, leaving the site clean. Clothing-optional is the norm and you should expect that you will experience nudity in the pools and often on the trail up. Lewd behavior, however, is not tolerated.

Winter Conditions (Additional Requirements)

During winter conditions the owner and the stewards of Scenic Hot Springs reserve the right to close access to the property when conditions, in our sole judgment, are too dangerous. Anyone who has a

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reservation for Scenic during winter conditions is required to check the Scenic Blog just prior to heading out for closures. Any guests who have reservations for that date will be given an opportunity for a future visit.

During winter cold weather conditions, visitors are expected to carry sufficient clothing and survival supplies in the event you are stranded by deep snowfall or a sudden change in weather.

- 1) Practice layering of your clothing. Do not wear cotton as cotton, wet, saps body heat. Wear a hat and gloves, as needed.
- 2) Carry three days worth of food. Keep yourself hydrated.
- 3) Carry at least three different ways of lighting a fire in an emergency.
- 4) Carry your cell phone. Cell phones often work at the hot springs site.
- 5) Snow can get very deep at Scenic during the height of winter, making snowshoes an essential. Scenic also has steep slopes that may present snow-slide hazards in addition to severe icing of the trail. Spikes and/or crampons may be necessary.

Large Bookings & Exclusive Access

A request for access does not grant your party exclusive use of the springs. Your request simply allows you access during the daylight hours of the day you want to reserve. On busy days, such as weekends, you may be sharing the hot spring pools with other groups. To reserve individual time-slices for reservations is unworkable and limits enjoyment of the springs.

However, on occasion we will allow a large group to have Exclusive Access to the springs if there are not already existing requests or reservations. We generally do this for cultural, social and fraternal groups. If you would like to reserve Exclusive Access to the springs for your group, contact the stewards directly with the following considerations:

1. The contribution for an Exclusive reservation is \$100 during a weekday (Monday-Friday) and \$150 for a weekend (Saturday or Sunday) or traditional holiday. We will not make or accept any other reservations for that date.
2. Consider how you will make parking arrangements as we cannot allow unsupervised vehicle access beyond the gate. It is suggested that your group take full advantage of car-pooling.
3. We will supply you with Hot Springs Closure signs to post at the gate to deter casual trespassers but we cannot guarantee that trespassers will not try to crash your party. You will have your confirmation email to show to trespassers and urge them to leave.
 - a. With a large group it is sometimes prudent to assign one of your members to remain at the gate and inform casual trespassers that the springs are closed for an exclusive event.
4. If there is time, one of the stewards will siphon and flush the pools in advance of your visit; and also post signs.

During the pre-permit phase, Scenic Hot Springs is not a commercial, for-profit venture. The cost of on-going maintenance, clean-up, and county-mandated control of access is partially offset by donations by those who request and would like to visit that keep the site available, controlled, and maintained. The majority of the funds used to manage and maintain the property comes out of the pockets of the stewards.

Your request will be determined primarily on your attitude, on acceptance of the Conditions of Access, on the number of pending requests, and our ability to maintain reasonable conditions (and conditions depend highly on contributions). If we, as stewards, are unable to control access or the conditions of the site due to inadequate contributions, then we must restrict access severely . . . we are, after all, not required to grant access to anyone. Your donations keep Scenic open.

We realize that these are trying times for some people and that even a \$5 or \$10 per person contribution is hard for a few to come up with. If you simply can't afford to offer a contribution and would still like to visit Scenic Hot Springs legally, let us know. We are reasonable people and I'm sure we can work something out. Options include acceptable in-place volunteer work on-site at the time of your visit or a verified, comparable donation in lieu to a local charity feeding and housing those less fortunate.