

## 2022 MMS CAMPING FORAY DESCRIPTION

**Foray:** Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park Camping Weekend

**Starts:** Friday, August 19, 2022 4:00 PM **Ends:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:00 PM

**Address:** 21071 County 118, Preston, Minnesota 55965

[Link to map directions](#) --- [Link to site or trails map](#)

**Foray Leaders** (contact at [mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org](mailto:mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org)):

Jane Onorati, Barry Shillingford, and Steve Widstrand

**Educator:** Tanner Barnharst

**Sign-ups open:** Monday, June 20, 2022 7:00 PM **Sign-ups close:** Sunday, July 31, 2022 7:00 PM

### Location

We have reserved the 2 rustic group camps (Riverview & Sumac Hill) situated right next to each other in Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. The park is an hour south of Rochester, and the group camp is at the southernmost end of the park road (Township Rd 479), past the main campgrounds and angler parking lot. There are 20 miles of trails in this park with terrain varying from rugged bluff land to river valleys. Plant communities include prairie, savanna, oak woodland, maple/basswood forest, and even white pine and fir. Three spring-fed streams converge in the park which are rated among the best trout waters in Minnesota. The link to map directions provided above will give you directions directly to the group campsite in the park.

### Camping in a group camp

Rustic group campsites are set up for group activities, with a mix of wooded and open space where you can find fairly level grassy spots for tent sites. Our group camp is equipped with 20 picnic tables, 2 standard size fire rings, 4 pit toilets, 2 water spigots, and 1 shelter with several AC outlets. *Please note that there is no cellular service available at the group campsite, and with a few exceptions, anywhere else in this park.*

The questionnaire form you will fill out as part of the sign-up asks for details on your camping equipment. You must fill this out to complete your sign-up and then pay online afterwards. Most of the parking will be at the group camp, so if you have a car, van, or truck with a bed or outfitted as a camper (no large rigs), this could take the parking space that would otherwise be used for your car. A few small camping trailers (15 feet long or less max) may be allowed on a first-come first-served basis. Don't count on bringing a camping trailer unless first cleared by the foray leaders. Contact the foray leaders if you have questions on non-tent camping options.

Shared use of tables will be available for eating and camp stove cooking. If you'd like to fix meals near your tent or away from others, you may want to consider bringing a small folding table. Food will need to be kept in your vehicle or in animal-proof containers and secured coolers as raccoons are known visitors to campsites in the park. There are no bear boxes to protect food from critters at the group camp.

### Bathrooms and Showers

All toilets at the group camp are pit toilets. There is a modern bathroom with showers available in the main campground a half mile from the group camp (~ a 10 min. walk, or drive to overflow parking for a short walk).

### Parking

We want to make sure there is enough parking space for all attending. We expect there will be enough space for everyone to park at the group camp site. If not, there is overflow parking 0.4 miles away (~8 min. walk). To avoid parking problems, you are allowed one vehicle per sign-up (not per participant). So, one vehicle per individual, family, or student sign-up. If you have a special concern regarding this, contact us at [mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org](mailto:mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org),

*Please consider ride-sharing for transportation to/from this event!* This will help minimize parking issues and accompanying noise and pollution at the group campsite. If members are interested in ride-sharing for transportation to the event, we will provide a way to facilitate finding opportunities with other participants.

### **Food and beverages**

We are working on a few food and beverage options, but don't expect all your food/drink needs to be covered by the event. Most likely there will be coffee/tea in the morning with bagels or similar, a potluck on Saturday, and maybe an evening mushroom tasting. More details on this will be made available several weeks before the event.

Bring your own food and cooking gear in addition to the rest of your camping equipment. So you have time to enjoy the forays and relax in between, it is recommended to bring meals that have been completely or partially prepared, along with your favorite snacks and beverages.

### **Pets**

It has been decided that pets will not be allowed at this foray. Since this is our first camping foray, we'd like to keep things simple and make choices that are likely to give the best chance of a successful event for all.

### **Forays**

Forays are not planned yet but there will be several on Saturday and Sunday. More details on the foray schedule will be made available soon. Forestville has a variety of terrains for our forays, so we will try to offer something that will appeal to each participant.

### **Non-campers**

We want to see how many will be camping with us before deciding whether to also invite members that want to come just for the forays and daytime activities. Our main priority is to provide a fun camping experience with forays. There may be a few exceptions made for members that may be good assets to the foray team. We'll update members with announcements to inform them of any changes regarding non-camper attendance.

### **Cost and Refunds**

This event is \$30/adult to cover costs of the group camps and some incidentals, plus a \$2 non-refundable processing fee (PayPal) added for each transaction. Children included on a family membership can attend for free. Also, a [MN State Park Vehicle Permit](#) is required to park your vehicle (\$35/annual \$7/day). Full refunds minus the processing fee (\$2 per transaction) will be approved if your sign-up is canceled *before* MONDAY, AUGUST 1. To cancel your sign-up, email the foray leaders at [mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org](mailto:mmscampingforay@minnesotamushrooms.org). You will receive a confirmation of your cancellation. Refunds will be processed within 2 weeks of the cancellation date.

### **Extending your stay**

If you decide to extend your stay before or after the camping foray weekend, make your plans while space is still available and reserve a campsite at <https://reservemn.usedirect.com/MinnesotaWeb/> or find other local lodging. A popular attraction at this park is [Mystery Cave Tours](#). Explore the world of Mystery Cave with its stalactites, stalagmites, and underground pools. Park naturalists provide tours of the cave throughout the summer and on weekends in the spring and fall. Fish three blue-ribbon trout streams for brown trout. Hike the trails up to ridge tops and along stream valleys. Visit [Historic Forestville](#), operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. Reserve ASAP as campsites and lodging fill up quickly. There may also be an option to stay at the group camp a day or two in advance of the weekend. Those interested should respond on the sign-up questionnaire.