

Visitor FAQ

UGPC visitors must provide their own treatment for drinking water, as well as sleeping gear, toiletries, cooking equipment and food. Indoor accommodations are NOT guaranteed. Visitors should have the necessary equipment to sleep outdoors if the Cabin is at capacity. Kitchen use by Cabin visitors is at the discretion of the Caretaker.

- **Who owns the Cabin?**
 - The Cabin and lands surrounding Upper Goose Pond are owned by the National Park Service, and were purchased for the protection of the Appalachian Trail in 1984.

- **Can I make a reservation for the Cabin or campsite?**
 - No. The Cabin and campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Sponsored or organized groups are generally not permitted to use the Cabin, but may (if space is available) use one of the adjacent campsites. Groups are encouraged to register their itineraries using [AT Camp](#). Registration does not imply a reservation at the Cabin.

- **How do I get to the Cabin?**
 - The Cabin and adjacent campsites are *accessible only on foot* via a ½ mile side trail from the Appalachian Trail. The nearest A.T. trailheads are at US Rt 20, 1.6 miles north, or Goose Pond Rd, 2.7 miles south.

- **When is the Cabin open? Can I camp here when the Cabin is closed?**
 - The Cabin is open from mid-May to mid-October. Contact at@amc-wma.org for specific dates. Visitors may use the adjacent campsites year round. Fires are only permitted at the fireplace behind the Cabin.

- **Why can't I camp by the shore along the A.T.?**
 - Camping on the A.T. in Mass is permitted only at officially designated overnight sites. This is to concentrate use at durable sites, and prevent degradation of sensitive areas, including viewpoints and the shores of streams and water bodies.

- **I heard everyone gets free pancakes and coffee for breakfast. Is this true?**
 - Serving meals to visitors is at the discretion of the Caretaker. Generally, breakfast, when offered, is provided only for visitors staying in the Cabin and active long distance hikers--tho this can vary with the number of visitors on site.

- **What can day visitors do at the Cabin?**
 - Hike, swim, enjoy the outdoors and conversations with their fellow hikers.

- **Can I make a fire at my tentsite?**
 - No, fires are limited to the fireplace behind the Cabin. This is to preserve the surrounding area from being stripped of downed limbs and to reduce the risk of out-of-control fires.

- **How many people can I bring to the Cabin?**
 - If you are leading a sponsored or organized outing, the size for overnight visitors is 10, including leaders. Day use groups are limited to 25. Families or informal groups are generally not considered as “organized”, but do be sensitive to times of heavy visitor use--typically in July/August and on weekends. Not all members of an informal group may be able to use the Cabin or stay at the same campsite, depending on the number of other overnight visitors.

- **Can I bring “Trail Magic” to hikers at the Cabin?**
 - Yes, but it must be available to all visitors
 - You must take any remaining food or packaging with you when you leave--No “drop offs”.
 - Do not bring alcohol or cannabis

- **Is there a fee to stay at the Cabin or campsites?**
 - There is no fee to use this facility, but donations are welcome.

- **Is there running water and electricity at the Cabin?**
 - No. Water is collected by the Caretaker from a spring on the shore of the pond opposite the Cabin. This water should be treated by the visitor before consuming. Pond water may also be consumed after appropriate treatment.

- **Can my scout or camp group stay at the Cabin?**
 - Sponsored or organized groups may not stay in the Cabin. The Caretaker will make every effort to accommodate groups at the adjacent campsites. This may not be possible at times of peak visitor use. Groups are expected to be self-sufficient and suitably equipped for an outdoor overnight stay. Groups should register with [AT Camp](#). Registration does not imply a reservation for Cabin space or campsite.

- **Can I come to the Cabin via the pond?**
 - Yes, for day use. Overnight accommodations are intended for Appalachian Trail hikers only. This applies both to the Cabin and the adjacent campsites. Don't block access to the dock when you beach your watercraft.

- **How do I become a Caretaker?**

- Contact the Upper Goose Pond Cabin Caretakers Coordinator at uppergoosepond@gmail.com. Prospective Caretakers will be asked to provide a summary of their outdoor experience for an interview with the Coordinator via phone. Prospective Caretakers also serve an apprenticeship with an experienced Caretaker before serving on their own. Caretakers usually serve one-week tours, Sunday to Sunday.