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Published by the Northeast Campground Association, Inc.

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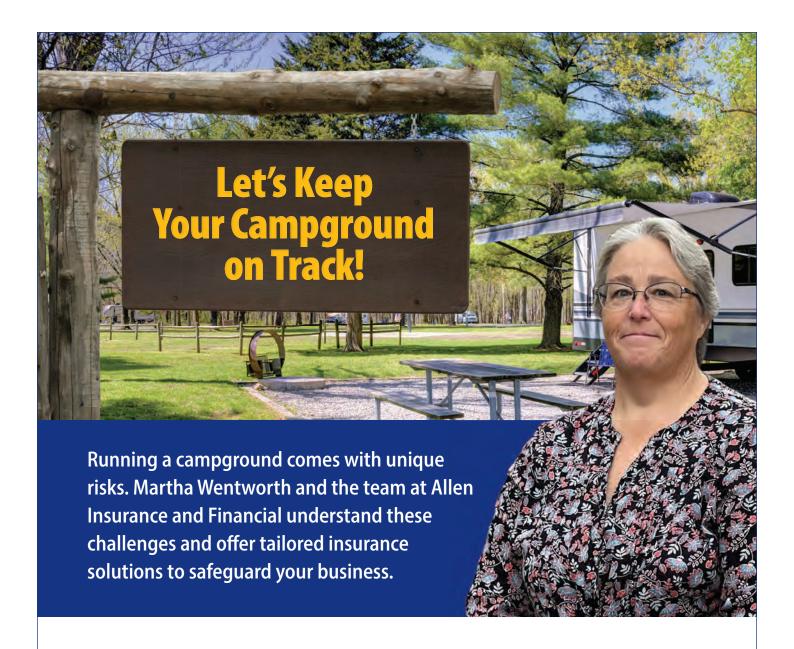


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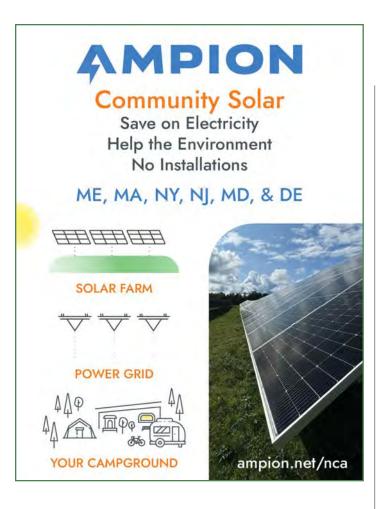




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AROUND THE STATES

Connecticut Campground Owners Association

(CCOA) www.campconn.com Jim Whitney, President/CEO



It has been a busy few months in Connecticut with some meaningful successes and ongoing significant changes to our industry. Our campgrounds have been reporting mixed results for the 2025 season. While seasonal business has been reported as strong and stable, transient business has been varied and inconsistent compared to recent years. On a positive note, several of our members have added sites to their campgrounds this year.

We are extremely pleased to report that on October 1, 2025, our Inherent Risk bill became law. This has been a lengthy, complicated and challenging process. We have spent a couple of years, several legislative sessions and wrote eight different versions of the bill before arriving at successful language. The final language was a result of coordinated discussions between us and the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, meeting both group's goals and objectives. It became effective on October 1, 2025 as Public Act 25-74. The most significant language in this new statute is Section 1 (3)(b) which states that "Each camper shall assume the risk for any injury to their person arising out of the hazards inherent in camping." This phrase is required to be written into any camper registration material.

We send special thanks and acknowledgment to State Representative John Piscopo, who was the original sponsor of the bill, and Bill Malitsky of Focus Government Affairs for their constant and ongoing efforts and support. Many of our members also stepped up and responded to our numerous calls to action by testifying, sending letters and making phone calls. It passed with bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee (who assumed sponsorship of the bill) as well as the House of Representatives and the Senate. The vote was a unanimous yes in both the Judiciary Committee and the Senate and a vote of of 135 to 16 in House. This was truly a team effort and arguably has resulted in one of the most significant legislative initiatives for our industry in Con-

necticut in many years. At this point and to the best of our knowledge, we are one of only six states that have successfully put this type of legislation in place.

We recently approved a new membership category as well as potential Board/Officer membership category entitled INDUSTRY ADVOCATE. The purpose of this proposal was to take full advantage of the skills, experiences and knowledge of those with a history of involvement and support of the Connecticut Campground Owners Association as well as the camping industry in Connecticut. The goal is to recognize the advantages of the institutional knowledge, connections and commitment to the camping industry that these individuals possess. The industry is going through significant changes, and it is important to us to adapt and respond to those changes to the benefit of the Association as well as our industry.

Last season, we were very successful at coordinating an effective program keeping our membership engaged in dealing with the ongoing challenges posed by various groups of Irish campers. Our members were quick to share any pertinent information and experiences with us which we, in turn, shared with the entire membership. This season, the issue has again resurfaced at several points but thanks to our member's diligence and sharing, we continued to minimize the impact of these various negative activities. We are proud of our members for their continued sharing and their commitment to helping each other.

We continue to see a significant number of our campgrounds being sold and changing from family owned to corporate owned. At this point, we are aware of two campgrounds for sale with three having been sold in 2024 and two already sold in 2025. If all of these sales take place, just over 30% of our campgrounds will be corporation owned vs. family owned. We expect that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. The challenge for us will be to engage the new owners and corporations to show them the value and importance of their continued involvement and support of CCOA, as well as providing continued support to our campgrounds that remain family owned and operated.

As always, we will continue to look for other initiative that we can take on for the benefit of our members and our industry.

Maine Campground Owners Association

(MECOA) www.campmaine.com Kathy Dyer, Executive Director



Hello Friends!

This year has been quite a different year for membership here in Maine. We have done numerous non-member invite email campaigns throughout the summer/fall and many in person campground visits to member parks. We are very pleased to announce 10 new members have joined – this is historic in one summer for MECOA. However, our glory faded when we ended up losing 9 current members for various reasons.

This year seems to have been a challenging and "flat" season for many of the parks here in Maine and across the country for various reasons — Lack of Canadian Visitors due to the potential tariff war and the unfavorable exchange rate, unsettling economy and cost of everything continuing to rise, fewer reservations being booked further in advance, tent sites difficult to fill, and the list goes on. MECOA membership is strong with 180 members beginning the 2026 season.

Camping Guide ad sales are down this year. We lost approximately \$10,000 of ad revenue from campground ads but glad to say our business ads stayed strong, all returned for 2026.

The 2026 Maine Camping Guide is in full production. We will be reducing our pages from 88 to 80 this year. We will print 140,000 pieces and will be printing with Solicso from Canada. We expect to have our guide to the printer before Thanksgiving and print will be December for Distribution beginning in January.

MECOA CONTINUES TO WORK HARD FOR OUR MEMBERS!

Our friend Todd Southwick has retired from the camping industry and has resigned from the MECOA Board of Directors. Todd sold his park. Congratulations to Todd and his family we wish him the very best. He will be greatly missed here at MECOA. Todd has been involved with the industry and MECOA for over 40 years. Thank you Todd and good luck!

MECOA now sends consumer emails to thousands of recipients and they are being well received. They go out about once a month. Looking forward to gaining additional emails though this is a lengthy/long process.

MECOA recently added a Promos, Deals and More page on the home page of CampMaine.com. This also has been well received by campgrounds, with numerous parks using this more and more. Seemed to be very helpful to parks this year.

MECOA built a new Kiosk display Banner at the Kittery Information Center where we have the Maine Camping Guide on display with our friends from Maine Tourism Association. Looks terrific and I am told visitors love it! We are looking very classy and reports show the Maine Camping Guide flying off the shelves.

Maine Tourism Association has recently opened the new Maine State Visitor Center in Trenton at the Acadia Gateway Center and MECOA has contracted with MTA to distribute our Maine Camping Guide at this location.

MECOA has signed a 2026 RV show contract with the State of Maine for four (4) shows we attend, Boston, Springfield, Montreal and Auburn. This definitely helps promote our booth presence at these shows. MECOA plans on participating in 6 RV shows for 2026: Boston, Hartford CT, Springfield, New Hampshire, Montreal and our own Auburn show.

Our Vacationland RV & Camping Show will be held April 11-12, 2026 with set up on April 10. The show will be held at the Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn Maine. Booth space is ¾ full and bulk space is 90% full. Harvey's RV from Bangor will be joining us at our 2026 Maine RV Show.

The Maine Legislative Council meets in October for the initial review of submitted legislation for next session, an appeals process will be held on November 20th. After that time, we will have an idea of what we will be faced with for the next session, along with any of the carry over bills. The next session will begin on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. MECOA has not submitted any new legislation.

OUR SEASON IS NOT OVER YET!

Our Fall season continues to grow year after year with visitors as they hear more and more about the beauty of Maine after Labor Day. Maine weather typically includes warm, sunny days and cool nights. Campers love to go leaf peeping, they also love the beach, biking, hiking and more! Our Maine parks have something special for everyone. We are hoping for a few more weeks of great weather, great camping, and great business here in Maine! And let's not forget our hunting season, many parks now stay open thru November.

AROUND THE STATES

Maryland Association of Campgrounds

(MAC) www.mdcamping.com Deb Carter, Executive Director



Greetings from Maryland! Our Fall MAC meeting was held at beautiful Cherry Hill Park, in College Park, MD, on Tuesday 10/21/25, followed by the NCA Great Escape. Fifteen of our twenty-five member campgrounds were represented (roughly 60% of our membership) and several of our business members attended as well.

MAC plans on once again having a booth at the Timonium RV Show in February 2026. Held on two weekends in February, this show has six acres of heated indoor display area and is always well attended. There is free entry for military/first responders and complimentary parking. Attendees can check out the newest models of over 85 leading brands of RV's, get financing info and trade-in appraisals. At our MAC booth we will be handing out our newest print directory (to be produced by Peter and Josh from Pelland Advertising). Show promotors and dealers reported being happy with the turnout and enthusiasm of people attending the show in September 2025. The attendance was estimated at 20,000. The numbers for attendance in the larger February show, are usually far more.

This will mark the first year MAC will participate in the Outdoor Recreation Summit, being held in Baltimore, MD October 28-30th, 2025. This event brings together advocates and enthusiasts of the outdoor industry from across Maryland and beyond our borders as well. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources asked us to join with them as a sponsor, and we're delighted to be a part of the activities.

We will again discuss the Weather Channel mobile app that delivers weather expertise, data and insights to consumers, so they can track when conditions are ideal to get outside and do what they love. According to research, 72% of people surveyed check the weather before planning outdoor events.

The app is easily located on your phone. You can select the activity, such as camping, hiking, biking, fishing, etc., that your phone monitors.

Maryland Tourism reports that every dollar spent to market our state as a tourism destination, returns \$31.00 to the state. Despite this great return on the dollar, we cannot convince our Maryland Legislature to award more money to promote tourism in our state. We will continue to work with the Maryland Tourism Council (we have a seat on their Legislative Committee) and other organizations to lobby for tourism funding. Our budget of \$15.3 million pales in comparison to our neighbors: PA \$35.1 million, VA \$78 million, and W.VA \$25.4 million.

We worked with OHI on the Credit Card Competition Amendment, nationally and on the state level. This bill, if passed, could potentially save small business owners roughly 15% annually on the major cost of processing fees. Senator Ben Kramer (Montgomery County) sponsored the bill, but when it did not pass, it was withdrawn. We will continue to monitor this subject, and other legislature that may come up. We appreciate the help of OHI on matters of this nature, and more.

Speaking of appreciation, MAC is very grateful to belong to the Northeast Campground Association. Working with Cyndy and crew has given us all a much greater understanding of the many things we have in common with our Northern neighbors. As well as, the things that are unique to our areas, even our own individual campgrounds. Those differences help us learn as well. We look forward to working together and moving forward to strengthen our relationships, promote good will and leave a lasting positive impression. Thank you for bringing the Great Escape to Maryland – we loved having you here!

THANK YOU
MARYLAND
ASSOCIATION OF
CAMPGROUNDS!

Massachusetts Association of Campground Owners

(MACO) www.campmass.com Cynthia Zbierski, President/CEO



This year twenty-one MACO member campgrounds were visited throughout Massachusetts along with the new Huttopia in the Berkshires prior to its July opening. MACO's membership drive began in mid-June and will be done soon. We are waiting on commitments from a few current members. To date we have lost one member - purchased by a family investment group in 2023 - and gained two members - Lake Dean Campground and Huttopia Berkshires. MACO also added two new Affiliate Members with RV Life and Northeast Campground Brokers.

For the third year we have depleted our supply of 50,000 guides. In 2026, MACO will print 60K guides and use the extra 10,000 in our out-of-state distribution in NY, PA, MD and DE in place of the separate rack card. This will increase exposure for all members and our advertisers. Walsworth will be printing for MACO and for the third year Design Principles will be handling the design of the guide to be ready for distribution in early January. Ad sales were successful with only one lost small ad and one larger ad space secured by a campground member. As MACO does not have a conference, ad sales in the guide are always a high priority. The Board voting for our 2026 cover has finished and we are excited to unveil it in January.

For 2025, MACO awarded two graduating seniors each a \$1000 scholarship. Awardees chosen from our twenty-six applicants were Trent Levesque heading to University of Vermont to study Environmental Science and Matthew Desruisseaux preparing to attend the University of Maine at Orono with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology. The all new online application process from the resource page of CampMass.com, as an option, was for the second year a great tool for students and review committee.

This summer, for the first time, MACO made an appeal to members and their guests to work together to help provide an outside play area for the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, MA - The only RMH in the state. To date donations totaling \$1,875 have been received and Chair, Dan Weaver and I will deliver these checks to Springfield on November 17th.

MACO will continue to make sure our campgrounds have the music and movie licensing information in front of them to secure licensing at a discount through the Hospitality Connections program (deadline 1/15/26) or the OHI member benefits (deadline 11/26/25).

MACO worked with its webmaster this year on a Google Ad Words campaign from February to May and then voted to extend through August. There was a spend of \$5000 and it grew our web traffic by 50% year over year during the campaign. "Camping near Boston", "Campgrounds Massachusetts" and "Camping Massachusetts" were top 3.

A new marketing piece for 2025-2026 is a full page color MACO ad in the nine issues of the Patriots Program Book sold at Gillette for each home game. MACO shared the expense with the four campgrounds choosing to participate. Another member was able to take advantage of the savings offered to the association and has its own half page ad in the issues. MACO will be participating in Tampa and The Boston Outdoor Show along with the camping shows in Boston, Hartford, Springfield, NH and ME.

Looking forward to representing MACO/NCA/OHI Foundation at this year's OHCE in Louisville this month. In December the MACO Bylaw Committee will meet in person for a morning session. Following lunch we will hold another session for Board and Committee members as we discuss what will be included in a member resource guide that MACO will unveil next year.

Thank you to my fellow Executive Directors for their help and guidance throughout the year!

Bonnie Brae, Normandy Farms & MACO were represented at the NCA Great Escape. Learning

& fun from morning until night!

Campground Owners of New York

(CONY) www.campnewyork.com Emily Simmons, President & CEO



Marketing

The 2025 Campground and RV Park Guide was in high demand this year, with individual guide requests up year over year. With a circulation of 100k copies, we were thrilled to try some new things in addition to our tried and true methods of distribution. We were pleased to once again partner with Anderson's Brochure Distribution to ensure visibility at participating RV and travel shows more than 20 this year! However, with one of the main pain points of our season being the decrease in Canadian tourism to the US, CONY shifted gears with our Camp New York brand to encourage in-state travel. Our campaign "you don't have to go far to get away" was met with positive feedback for in-state travel, as well as an answer to budget-friendly travel needs. Further, we attended unique distribution events such as the NYS Canine Expo and local sporting events, and partnered with local grocery stores in their free publication stands. Currently we are in production of our 2026 guide and are finding that ad sales are slow with many former advertisers citing budget issues. We are actively prospecting for other advertisers outside of campgrounds to help offset our costs, but overall this is a big challenge for us this year. Lastly, we launched our very first "Best of Camp New York" awards - an entirely camper-driven contest celebrating the best in independent campgrounds in New York. Winners will be announced at our upcoming Annual Conference and will be provided with many tools to market ahead of the 2026 season.

Member Benefits

Hospitality Connections has been an extremely valuable addition to our membership benefits and our monthly Campfire Connections virtual membership calls continue to enhance our communications between the CONY office and membership. While live/real time engagement is always best, our post-meeting recording watch rate is upwards of 35% of our membership! Our newest member benefit is our recently launched mentorship program which will kick off at our Annual Conference. This program will pair volunteer campground owners and operators with members of all experience levels to support various needs such as infrastructure upgrades/issues, marketing, branding, finance, and staff training.

Advocacy

While our advocacy efforts in Albany slow down when members are not in session, we continue to cultivate relationships with state representatives and share our concerns and priorities all year long. CONY's 2026 Advocacy Day will be held in March where CONY staff, board members, and lobbyists will meet with lawmakers at the New York State Capitol to discuss various issues impacting the outdoor hospitality industry including: tourism funding, credit card processing fees, ADA website lawsuits, and Advanced Clean Truck legislation. Most recently we have adapted to the new Short Term Rental legislation which requires short term rentals within a participating county to register and pay occupancy and sales tax. Due to the business model and types of units on member properties, this has minimal impact on our members, but rather levels the playing field with third-party platforms such as AirBNB and VRBO.

2025 Events

Attendance at in-person events and overall engagement does not seem to have returned to pre-pandemic numbers. In response to this challenge and hearing feedback from both campground members and supplier members, the CONY board of directors and staff worked hard to set up new programming for 2025. Due in part to the success of our monthly Campfire Connections calls, our Spring Zone Meetings were replaced with a virtual conference, Fire Up Forum, on April 1, 2025 using the Whova EMS. This included a virtual trade show with various exhibitors to help our members get "fired up" and prepared for the upcoming season. As it was the first event of its kind for our members it did take some getting used to! Overall the response was extremely positive and an event we will continue to grow in 2026.

Our 2025 Annual Conference will be held on November 2, 2025 at The Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY. Again, in response to feedback from members, we have changed course from the traditional trade show/expo event model to a more streamlined one-day celebratory event focused on relationships and sharing of best practices.

We are thrilled to be your hosts here in New York for next year's Great Escape! Stay tuned for more details in the months to come. Wishing everyone a restful winter and holiday season. Thank you to NCA and its members for the continued support and partnership.

New Hampshire Campground Owners' Association

(NeHaCa) www.nhloverscampers.com Jeremy Sprince, Executive Director



Membership and guide advertisements - Both of these areas have remained fairly consistent with previous years. Still chasing a few guide advertisements and nearing a deadline to decide whether we will reduce the number of pages the publication will be next year. Canadian traffic - Campgrounds in parts of our Seacoast and White Mountains Region seemed to be the ones most affected with a reduction in Canadian traffic. It wasn't so much that Canadians had been cancelling planned trips, it was that they never even made the reservations. Some in those areas least affected reported that the Canadian traffic had not been large of a factor in their businesses recently or at least since after the pandemic.

Campground visits - Campground visits are probably finished for the season. It has been interesting to hear how different the year went depending on the campground's location in the state. A frequent topic of conversation has been that tenting seemed to be off this season. The early season rainy weather we experienced in New Hampshire was also a contributing factor in that area being down for a number of campgrounds. Seasonal openings – For the first time in a number of years, there are a number of campgrounds with openings. A recent social media post currently has over 20 campgrounds on the listing. This is something New Hampshire campgrounds have not seen for a while.

Guide distribution – We printed 150,000 copies this year and all that is left is backup which I hold onto incase of printing delays. Plans are to print the same quantity for 2026. We have 10-11 New Hampshire Welcome Centers throughout the state but really only 4 major ones, as of last week we had distributed over 36,000 at those alone.

Joint Promotional Program Grant - The association applies for marketing grant through the state which must be rewritten each year. Thankfully we have been approved for our grant once again. Essentially what the grant does is assist with funds identified for use with marketing efforts. The grant this year consists of pieces

of the guide printing, trade shows, social media marketing and guide distribution. This has been extremely helpful assisting marketing our member campgrounds.

Legislative Recap - 72:7-d compliance - Thankfully a proposed bill with changes to Chapter 72, Persons and Property Liable to Taxation, Property Taxes, Section 72:7-d (Exemption; Recreational Vehicles) was defeated earlier in the year. The legislation aimed to impose a flat fee on unregistered vehicles and trailers by April 1st, shifting the burden of collection to campgrounds, who would then be responsible for gathering these payments from seasonals. Representatives from several member campgrounds, myself included, voiced our opposition at the public hearing. Basically, this proposal was forcing campgrounds to act as tax collectors for someone else's liability.

Planned Upcoming Show Schedule

- NYS RV Show, NY
- 2026 Progressive® NCRVDA Charlotte RV Show, NC
- Northeast RV & Camping Show, CT
- Springfield RV & Camping Show, MA
- Montreal RV Show, QC
- New Hampshire Camping & Recreational Vehicle Show, NH
- Vacationland RV & Camping Show, ME





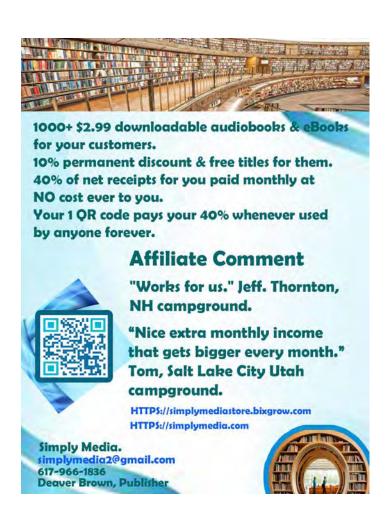
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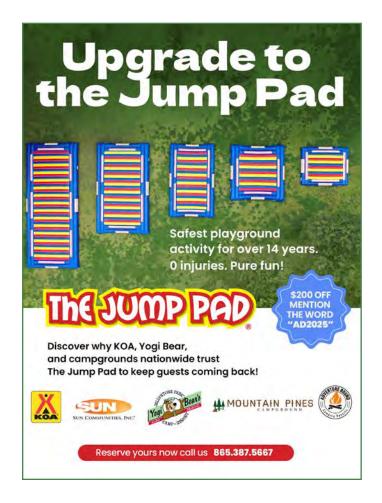














Christine Taylor is a partner at Goldberg Segalla, a national civil litigation law firm with extensive experience representing owners, operators, franchisors and franchisees of outdoor hospitality operations, hotels and resorts of all sizes, as well as indoor and outdoor sports and entertainment facilities.



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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ONLINE BOOKING: WHAT MAKES GUESTS CLICK "CONFIRM"

September 7, 2025 ~ Posted on Resort-Forward.com

Booking a stay at a campground or RV park isn't just a transaction. It is an emotional decision. While price and availability matter, they're far from the only influences. Behind every successful booking lies a blend of cognitive biases, emotional triggers, and subtle design cues that reassure guests they're making the right choice.

For campground and RV park operators, understanding these psychological drivers isn't just fascinating—it's essential. When the digital booking experience aligns with actual guest psychology, properties see increased conversions, reduced abandonment, and stronger trust.

Here is the psychology of online booking and uncover what truly makes campers commit to clicking "Confirm."

1. The Power of First Impressions

First impressions form in milliseconds, and they set the tone for the entire decision-making process. If a booking page looks cluttered, outdated, or slow, campers often question the park's overall quality.

Remember that design equals trust: A clean, modern interface reassures visitors that the campground or RV park is well-managed.

Speed matters: Even a three-second delay in page load time can cause potential guests to abandon the process.

Consistency builds confidence: If the booking engine feels disconnected from the main website, guests may fear a scam.

Think of your booking page as your digital check-in desk: it needs to look professional, feel reliable, and immediately establish trust.

2. Choice Architecture: Guiding Without Overwhelm

When people face too many options, they can become paralyzed. This is a phenomenon psychologists call choice overload. In camping, this happens when sites list dozens of campsite types, hookups, or add-ons without clear distinctions.

Smart booking systems use choice architecture to guide decision-making. In order to do this the systems follow simple rules.

They highlight the most popular choice. Guests often follow social proof, so labeling an option as "Most Booked" or "Best Value" encourages commitment.

They reduce visible complexity. Instead of showing every detail at once, use collapsible menus or filters.

They anchor prices. Showing a higher-priced option first makes mid-range choices feel more reasonable.

The goal is to help campers feel empowered, not overwhelmed.

3. Social Proof: Reducing Uncertainty

Camping trips often represent valuable family time or memorable adventures. Guests want assurance they're making the right choice, which is why they rely heavily on social proof.

Ratings and reviews strongly influence decisions. Even a half-star difference can swing a booking. User-generated photos (like tent setups or RV pads taken by past visitors) feel more authentic than

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promotional shots. Endorsements and badges ("Voted Best Family-Friendly Park" or "Trusted by 5,000 travelers") boost confidence.

If other campers had a great time, new guests are more likely to feel secure booking their stay.

4. Scarcity and Urgency: The Power of FOMO

Few triggers are more effective than scarcity. Phrases like "Only 2 sites left this weekend" or "Offer ends in 12 hours" spark fear of missing out (FOMO).

Examples of urgency done well include real-time counters showing how many people are viewing a site, countdown timers for limited-time discounts and highlighting peak weekends (like holidays or festivals) likely to sell out.

Scarcity transforms a casual decision into an urgent one, nudging hesitant campers to act quickly.

5. Emotional Imagery and Storytelling

At its core, camping is about experiences, not just spaces to park an RV or pitch a tent. Psychology shows us that emotion drives decision-making more than logic.

Lifestyle imagery works best: A family roasting marshmallows by the fire sells the site better than a bare photo of a gravel pad.

Story-driven copywriting creates vision: "Wake up to the sound of birdsong and mountain views" is more compelling than "Standard Tent Site."

Contextual personalization helps—messaging framed around family adventures, relaxation, or outdoor sports resonates with travel motivations.

When campers see themselves in the story, they become more likely to confirm.

6. Reducing Friction: The Path of Least Resistance

Even when the intent to book is strong, friction can derail the process. Psychology shows that the more effort something requires, the less likely people are to complete it.

Friction often appears in three areas. Forms that are long and complex with unnecessary fields cause drop-offs. Payment limitations with restricting payment options frustrates campers who prefer PayPal, digital wallets, or buy-now-pay-later services. Mobile design that is clunky can be fatal when many campers are booking on the road or via smartphones

By removing obstacles, campgrounds and RV parks make booking feel effortless—keeping momentum high.

7. Price Perception: It's All in the Framing

Pricing is never just about numbers. It's about perception.

Framing makes a difference: "\$150 for the weekend" feels better than "\$75 per night."

Bundling increases value: Including firewood, parking, or activity passes makes guests feel they're getting more for their money.

Transparency prevents distrust: Hidden fees (like mandatory service charges) not only discourage bookings but also damage reputation.

Guests don't always choose the cheapest option—they choose the one that feels fair and offers value.

"Click Confirm" - Continued from Page

8. Cognitive Ease: Familiarity Wins

People instinctively prefer things that feel familiar. This concept, known as cognitive ease, explains why standardized booking layouts tend to perform well.

Progress bars reassure guests they're moving toward completion.

Predictable UI elements like calendars, dropdowns, and site photos reduce cognitive load.

Consistency across channels (desktop, mobile, third-party platforms) avoids confusion.

The smoother and more familiar the journey feels, the more likely campers will stick with it.

The smoother and more familiar the journey feels, the more likely campers will stick with it.

9. Trust and Risk Reduction

Every booking involves risk: campers are sending money to a park they haven't experienced yet. The more you minimize perceived risk, the more comfortable guests feel clicking "Confirm." There are several ways to reduce risk.

Flexible cancellation policies reduce fear of commitment.

Visible security measures (SSL, payment processor logos) reassure data safety.

Clear policies on check-in, deposits, and refunds prevent surprises.

Trust isn't just nice to have—it's the foundation of every successful booking.

10. Post-Booking Reinforcement

The psychology of booking doesn't end with confirmation. Guests often feel buyer's remorse after big purchases. Smart follow-up can prevent cancellations and build excitement.

Instant confirmation emails reassure the quest that everything went smoothly.

Personal touches like using the camper's name or mentioning their chosen site create connection.

Pre-arrival communication (e.g., packing tips, park maps, or activity guides) maintains enthusiasm.

When done right, post-booking reinforcement turns relief into anticipation.

11. Personalization: Making Campers Feel Seen

Travelers increasingly expect tailored experiences. Personalized booking flows feel more relevant and increase the likelihood of completion.

There are several ways to personal booking. Behavioral targeting can suggest site upgrades based on browsing history. Geographic cues will display prices in local currency. Past guest data can offer returning guests their favorite sites or loyalty discounts.

When campers feel the process is tailored to them, commitment grows stronger.

12. The Comfort of Control

Psychologically, people crave control, especially when making high-stakes decisions like planning a trip. Booking tools that give campers autonomy reduce anxiety.

Flexible filters let guests sort by site type, hookups, or pet-friendly options.

Interactive maps empower campers to choose exact sites.

Self-service options (like easy date changes) provide confidence that guests remain in charge.

A sense of control transforms booking from a stressful choice into an empowering action.

13. Anticipation and Reward

Booking is more than logistics. It's the first step toward a rewarding outdoor experience. Psychologists note that anticipation itself generates happiness.

Create that anticipation. Use imagery and language that inspire anticipation. Campfires, stargazing, and adventure heighten emotional payoff.

Use Post-booking countdowns or "Your trip is in 10 days!" reminders build excitement.

Frame upsells as enhancements. Add-ons like firewood bundles, kayak rentals, or guided hikes feel like part of the reward.

This anticipation effect keeps campers engaged long after they've clicked confirm.

Bringing It All Together

At its core, the psychology of online booking is about reducing uncertainty, inspiring confidence, and sparking excitement. Guests don't confirm simply because a site is available—they do so because the booking journey reassured their expectations and tapped into their emotional motivations.

The most successful campground and RV park booking flows:

Make powerful first impressions.
Guide choices without overwhelming.
Use social proof to build trust.
Employ scarcity and urgency responsibly.
Tell stories with images and words.
Remove every possible friction point.
Frame price as value.
Offer familiarity, trust, and control.
Reinforce decisions after booking.
Personalize the journey.
Keep anticipation alive.

Conclusion: Designing for the Confirm Click

At its heart, online booking is about reducing uncertainty, inspiring confidence, and building excitement. Guests confirm not simply because a site is available but because the experience has eased their doubts, reassured their expectations, and tapped into the emotional reasons they want to travel.

In today's crowded hospitality market it is vital to making that "Confirm" button feel not only safe but smart and thrilling. That's the competitive edge!





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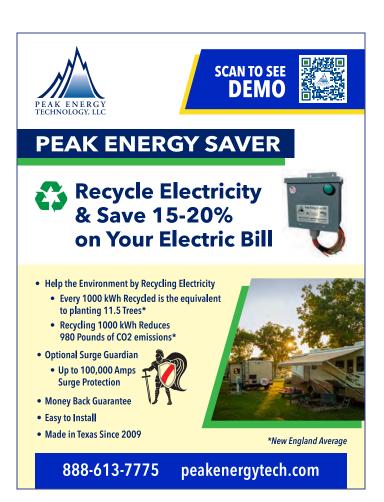


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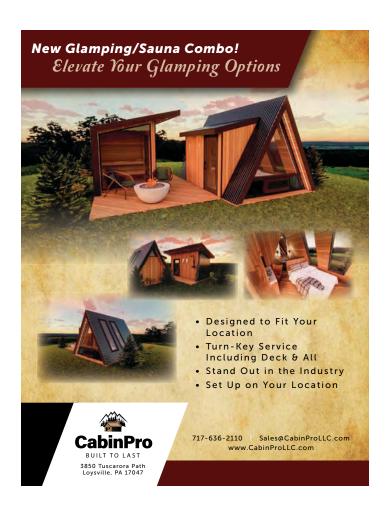


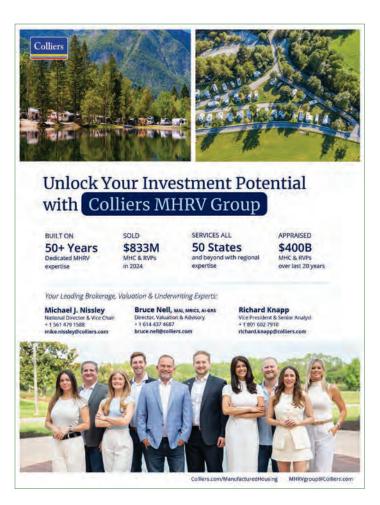
































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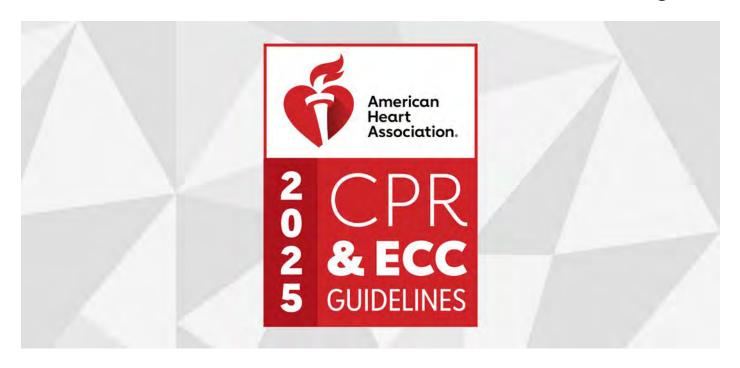
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Understanding the legal responsibilities of using music in your business is crucial.

This is a portion of a well-written blog by Lynette Rowland republished by the Pennsylvania Association of Campground Owners in Campground Quarterly for October 2025. It was originally posted as "22 Things Roller Skating Rink Owners Must Know About Music Licensing" in May of 2024 by the Roller Skating Association newsletter. *Please note we have replaced "roller rink" with "campground" for your reading ease.

Music brings life to your campground, creating an atmosphere that keeps guests coming back. This article breaks down the importance of being properly licensed for all music played anywhere on a campground property. Understanding the legal responsibilities of using music in your business is crucial. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you navigate U.S. copyright law.

1. Music Makes the Experience Music sets the tone.

2. Who Really Owns the Music?

When you hear a song, you might think it belongs to the performing artist. In reality, unless the artist wrote the song, they don't own it. The ownership typically lies with the composer, songwriter, and music publisher, among many others. They are the ones who created the music and have the legal rights to it and each person might belong to different Performing Rights Organizations (PROs).

3. Understanding Copyrights

A copyright gives the owner exclusive rights to their creation. From the moment a song is written down or recorded, it is protected by copyright law. This means that others cannot use the song without the owner's permission, which is usually obtained through a license.

4. Why Pay to Play?

Paying for music licenses ensures that artists are compensated for their work. Music is a business, and like any other business, creators need to earn a living. Licensing fees support artists and encourage them to continue making music.

5. When Must Businesses Pay?

Anytime music is played in a public setting, such as a campground or during a sporting event, a license is required. This includes live performances, DJ sets, whether the music is played from CDs, a playlist of downloaded music, or any streaming service. The law considers these performances public, even if they happen within your privately owned campground.

6. The Truth About Business Streaming Services There is a lot of misinformation about business streaming services. Some claim that services like Spotify or Apple Music for business cover public performance licenses. However, this is not true if your business charges an admission fee. These services are intended for personal use only. If you intend to use them in your campground, you will still need to pay your music licensing fees.

7. What is the Role of Performing Rights Organizations (PROs)

Performing rights organizations (PROs) simplify the licensing process by allowing businesses to obtain licenses for thousands of songs from multiple artists. PROs like BMI, ASCAP, SESAC, and Global Music Rights issue blanket licenses that cover all the music in their catalogs, making it easier for business owners to comply with copyright laws. They act on behalf of songwriters and publishers to issue licenses and collect fees. By obtaining licenses from these organizations, you ensure that you can legally play a wide range of music in your campground.

8. Where Do Licensing Fees Go?

Licensing fees collected by PROs are distributed to the music creators as royalties. Most of the fees go directly to the artists, with a small portion used for administrative costs. This system ensures that artists are fairly compensated for their work and can continue creating music.

9. Do You Need Multiple Licenses?

Songs often have multiple creators, each possibly represented by different PROs. To play these songs legally, you need licenses from all relevant PROs for each song. Many businesses opt for blanket licenses from all major PROs to cover all potential music usage and to avoid legal complications.

10. The CD and Download Misconception Purchasing a CD or a digital download gives you the right to play the music privately. This means you can play it at home or in your car, but not in a public setting like your campground. For public performances, you need additional licenses.

11. Getting Licenses Made Easy

*Call your state association or NCA at (860) 684-6389 for the Hospitality Connections link to receive discounted rates to members. If you own more than one campground, you must pay for each campground individually. This streamlined process makes it easy to obtain the licenses you need.

12. Who's Responsible?

As the business owner, you are responsible for securing the necessary licenses. If your campground is found to be playing music without a license, you could face significant fines and legal action. It's important to ensure you have the right permissions to avoid these risks.

13. How Fees Are Determined

Licensing fees vary based on the type of business, the admission charge, the occupancy size

of the building, how the music is performed, and how often it is played. Some PROs offer discounts to specific groups who have negotiated lower fees, which is what the RSA has done on behalf of members. For competitive events, there may be separate fees that you need to discuss with the licensing agency. *Make sure your license covers you for your campground's music spend for live music during a season.

14. The Consequences of Non-Compliance Ignoring copyright laws can lead to severe penalties. These can include fines, court costs, and even criminal charges in extreme cases. The fines can be substantial, often enough to put a small business out of business. Compliance is not just a legal requirement but also a way to support the music industry.

15. How to Obtain a License to PROs

The Northeast Campground Association works with Hospitality Connections that partners with PROs to offer members discounted rates. Every member pays a different rate based on a few different factors such as number of sites or annual music spend, but Hospitality Connections simplifies the process by handling the accounting for the PROs. This saves YOU money and the PROs the time to collect from every member.

16. Do PROs Really Enforce U.S. Copyright Laws?

Yes, PROs actively enforce copyright laws. They monitor businesses to ensure compliance and take legal action against those who fail to obtain the necessary licenses. Enforcement can include sending representatives to check on businesses, issuing fines, and pursuing legal proceedings to recover unpaid fees and damages.

17. What Happens During an Audit?

If a PRO suspects that you are playing music without a license, they may conduct an audit. This involves checking your music sources and usage. If they find you are not in compliance,

they will issue a notice of infringement, and you may have to pay backdated fees and penalties.

For instance, with Global Music Rights, if you fail to pay your license and you play a song violating the Copyright Act, each song could incur \$150,000 in statutory damages. If an auditor is sitting in your campground and hears you play 20 of their songs, that's \$3 million dollars in fines alone. You do not want to put yourself at risk.

18. What Are the Types of Music Licenses?

- Public Performance License: Required for playing music in public spaces, including campgrounds. This is the most common license and is issued by PROs.
- Mechanical License: Needed if you are reproducing music, such as making copies of a CD.
- Synchronization License: Required if you are synchronizing music with visual media, like a promotional video for your campground.
- Master Use License: Needed for using a specific recording of a song in a project.
- 19. What are Some Tips for Staying Compliant?
- Regularly Review Your Licenses: Ensure all your licenses are up-to-date. Licensing terms and fees change every year, so periodic reviews are essential.
- **Keep Records:** Maintain detailed records of your music licenses and payments. This can be useful if there are ever any disputes or audits.



Music Licensing with NCA

The discounted music licensing program offers association members music licensing. The open enrollment period for Hospitality Connection's 2026 discounted music licensing program will begin on October 1, 2025 and end on January 15, 2026. No license can be secured outside of the license period.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to secure your music licenses at our exclusive discounted rates and help protect your park from liability and costly fines.

CLICK HERE TO START!

Call Hospitality Connections at 610-767-5026 with any questions.



THE NORTHEAST CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION

Through membership in your state association, your campground is automatically a NCA member. In 2026, state associations will pay an annual \$25 administrative fee per campground allowing NCA, your regional association, to provide membership services and to maintain the best possible data. **Join your state association today!**

Just some of the benefits you have access to with NCA:

- Northeast Conference on Camping Southbridge, MA March 18 - 20, '26
- Licensing Discounts & More
 *Benefits w/ Hospitality Connections
- Annual NCA Buyer's Guide
- Quarterly Northeast In-Sites
- Listing on CampNCA.com

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- 60+ Business Members
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- Scholarship Awards
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NCA is dedicated to the promotion and growth of camping through networking and education in collaboration with state associations.



