

Before you go afield...



NYSDEC, Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

To order more, write:

ASK

PERMISSION

SEE LANDOWNER

Provided Free by NYSDEC



NYS Fish & Wildlife Management Board
in cooperation with NYSDEC

For more information: 1-888-HUNT-ED2

Private Property

More than half of America's adults and millions more youngsters enjoy wildlife-associated activities. New York State has millions of acres, home to hundreds of wildlife species. Since 85 percent of the state is privately owned, many people rely on private landowners for outdoor recreation. For instance, nearly two-thirds of the hunting in New York State is on private lands.

Posting

Many private lands on which New Yorkers depend for outdoor recreation are posted. Much of the property is posted because owners want to know who is using their land and manage the amount of use. On lands that are not intensively used for recreation, a reputation for careless and irresponsible behavior by a minority of people results in posting. Sportsmen's organizations and state government have established programs to improve the conduct of outdoor recreationists and help create better relationships with landowners. These programs seem to be working, since the rate of additional posting has slowed substantially in recent years. However, posting is still increasing, but not as rapidly.

Posting is a problem for both outdoor recreationists and the landowners. Posting reduces the amount of land available for

people seeking land for hunting or hiking and adds expense in time and money for the landowners. Often, posting does not produce the results desired by landowners. Responsible people, who might be welcome, stay away; while unruly people simply ignore posters and trespass on the property.

Permission

A common complaint is that people don't ask permission from landowners to use their property. Even landowners who post are likely to say "yes" to people who show their respect for private property by asking first. Most rural landowners are generous people who will gladly help visitors, but the number of those who no longer say "yes" is increasing.

You Can Help

A poor image of outdoor recreationists is one reason why access to private property is shrinking. If recreationists demonstrate courtesy to landowners and respect for property, the situation could improve. If, however, trespassing, littering and vandalism occur, access will continue to be denied. As an outdoor recreationist, you can help improve this unfortunate image by ASKing permission. You can show your respect for landowners' rights and concern for their property by ASKing, even on unposted property.

Permission Checklist

ASK...BEFORE your trip. Your chances of gaining access are better if you ask ahead of time. Don't show up on opening day or at inconvenient times or with a gun in your hand.

ASK...WHEN you can go. Just because you fished there in May, don't assume you can go back in September. Check in with the landowner when it's convenient for him.

ASK...WHAT is permitted. Permission to hike doesn't mean you can pick berries. Permission to hunt may not include permission to drive your off-road vehicle on the property.

ASK...WHERE certain activities are allowed. Shooting may disturb nearby farm animals. Ask where to park.

ASK...WHO is welcome. More than two or three people can be an unwelcome crowd. Keep your group small.

ASK...ABOUT special concerns. Is the landowner's family likely to be in woods or fields? Do the neighbors mind shooting?

Landowner's Checklist

If you post ASK permission symbols put you in control.



ASK permission symbols are small blue stickers to attach to a corner of your posted signs. They simply tell people to see you to ask permission. They don't replace posting or alter the legality of your signs.

Posted signs alone just keep responsible law-abiding people away. If you would rather have them, instead of trespassers, on your property, ASK symbols are a great option.

- Let considerate people know they can ask permission.
- You give visitors instructions.
- Keep visitors' vehicles where they belong.
- Responsible people can help you watch your property.
- Hunters can help you control nuisance wildlife.
- Make your posters more effective.
- Let trespassers know somebody else is there.
- No strings attached: no agreements to sign, no commitment, no unwanted publicity.

LANDOWNER PERMISSION RECORD LANDOWNER COPY	
I agree to conduct my self safely, fully, respecting the landowner, p using it. I accept the responsibility the activities which I pursue; I ag instructions of the landowner wh	Permission given to _____ Address _____
I understand that the laws of New the landowner from liability for n engages in hunting, fishing, trapp and certain other activities, exce or malicious failure to guard or w	Vehicle Make _____ Yr _____ Color _____ Vehicle Lic. No. _____ No. in Party _____ Other licenses, tag no. _____
Signed _____ (visitor's name) Date ____/____/____ Turn in Poachers and Call 1-800-TIPP	Permission dates: from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____ Limitations: _____
I hereby give perm	This card provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Visitor Copy - Not Transferable
I request permission following purpose:	NYSDEC, Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 To order more, write: ASK PERMISSION SEE LANDOWNER Provided Free by NYSDEC
to enter my property for the purp reverse side of this card. He/she safely, responsibly, and lawfully responsibility for his/her actions.	Dates: from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____ Limitations: _____ Landowner's Name _____ Address _____
Signed _____ (landowner, lessee, or) Date ____/____/____ Turn in Poachers and Call 1-800-TIPP	Outdoor recreation on pr

ASK permission brochures, stickers and cards can be obtained free from DEC Regional Offices

A Word About Liability

Whether or not the land is posted, the New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, canoeing, boating, trapping, hiking, motorized vehicle operation for recreation, snowmobiling, or dog training. The protection does not apply in cases of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against dangers.

Also, normal liability insurance which most property owners have, usually protects them against lawsuits. Your liability insurance policy or insurance agent can provide details.





PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Landowner's Business, Home and Playground
ASK yourself...*If this were my land, how would I want a visitor to act?*



When Landowners share, show you care.

In return for using the property, you can show your respect and appreciation by making it your business to protect the interests of your host.

Permission

The landowner's home and property are his castle and kingdom. **ASK** well in advance of your trip. Not during inconvenient or busy times for the landowner. **ASK** who is welcome, what is allowed, and where and when.

Courtesy

Most landowners appreciate friendly people who appreciate their situation. Large groups of visitors and loud activities are not welcome.

Vehicles

People on wheels are never as welcome as those on foot. Wheels can cause expensive ruts, crop damage, and loss of landowner's time if parked in the wrong place. **DRIVE** only where you won't cause damage, and **PARK** only where you won't block the path of a tractor or other vehicles.



Livestock

...are a big investment. Show your concern for their welfare by staying away and keeping your dog leashed near farm animals.



Water Areas

...are special places for landowners and families. Special permission and care is required here.



Safety

...is always a concern, especially if vehicles, firearms or water are involved. Let landowners know you are a careful person.

Signs

"This means you," even if you're "just looking." The surest way to keep posted signs up is to damage, shoot or remove them. Even with **no** signs, you must leave if the landowner tells you to go.



Trees

...are especially valuable crops, since they take so long to grow. Nails, slugs, tree stands, or trail markers can be just as damaging as a chainsaw in the long run.

Leave some for Others

Repeatedly taking your limit, whether it's bass, birds, or berries will quickly wear out your welcome.

Family

...their safety and comfort are the most important concerns of a landowner. Stay away from buildings, work and play areas.



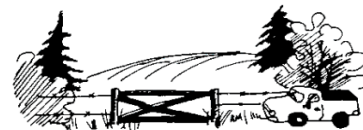
Litter

...is an annoyance which can be costly and dangerous. Show you care by helping to clean up after thoughtless people. Your efforts will be appreciated.



Fences and Gates

...are expensive, especially if damaged or left open. Leave gates as you find them, to avoid making more work for the landowner.



Crops and Plants

...are important to landowners, often the products of lots of work and expense. Stay away from planted fields unless you have specific permission. Never remove anything from the property that you didn't ask for or pay for, even if it looks like it's not being used.



Camping and Fires

...usually leave scars on the land. They should be considered only with special permission, and with great care to control fires and leave no mess.



Helping

The landowner has done you a favor. Why not return it? Visit the place to give sometimes, not just to take. Look for jobs you can do without being an expert.



Thanking

To be remembered as "one of the good ones" who appreciate private property, share some of what you got from the land, even if it was just a good time. A card on holidays is a good way to show you remember and appreciate landowners.