

Terms of Use for www.parkstamps.org – By using www.parkstamps.org users are agreeing to the following terms of use:

1. Users agree to not post any material that is patently offensive, defaming, libelous, or illegal.
2. Users agree to not post personal attacks directed towards other users of the Forums.
3. Users agree to not post any goods or services for sale, nor any other commercial solicitation, without the express written approval of the NPTC. Routine suggestions for travel-related services rendered mentioned in trip reports and trip advice threads are permitted.
4. Users agree not to extract data in any form from www.parkstamps.org other than for personal usage. Users agree to NOT use any data or information from www.parkstamps.org for any commercial purpose, whether or not there is a possibility of financial gain. Users also agree not to disseminate any proprietary (member-restricted) data or information to others on other websites, blogs, etc. without the expressed consent of the NPTC Executive Board.
5. Users agree that whenever they post any material that is not their own (unless not copyrighted or otherwise in the public domain), the user will properly attribute this material to its author, and that the user will provide a link to the source of the material where obtained on the Internet.
6. Users agree that they will not repost the entire text of articles, stories, or other copyrighted material that is not in the public domain, nor repost large sections of this material. Users agree that if they wish to share copyrighted material with other users that they will only post a short section of this material consistent with the "Fair Use Doctrine" in US copyright law, that the user will properly attribute this material to its source, and that the user will provide a link to the source material where obtained on the Internet.
7. Users agree that the NPTC Executive Board may consider and pursue changes to these policies at any time, and that they may remove any post from the message boards that violates any of these policies at their discretion by applying the published protocol. Users agree that if they believe that one of their posts was mistakenly removed under the terms of these policies that the user will appeal this matter directly to the Executive Board by using the procedure indicated herein. The user further agrees to not start discussions on the Forums related to specific instances of the enforcement of these policies.
8. If a report of TOU has no basis for a violation, the reporter will receive a warning. If this occurs again, they will receive one point, Third offense will be two points and increasing by one point for each successive specious report.
9. Users agree that the Executive Board will use the following guidelines for those posters who are accused of violating the Terms of Use:
 - I. Request to remove a word or phrase, with member editing: 1 point
---Original poster must remove word or phrase within 12 hours of moderator request.
 - II. Request to remove a word or phrase, with moderator having to edit: 2 points
---After 12 hours with no response or edit, moderator deletes the offending word.
 - III. Entire post request to remove and removed by member: 5 points
---Original poster must remove post within 12 hours of moderator request.
 - IV. Entire post removed by moderator due to multiple formal complaints: 10 points
---This applies when multiple formal complaints are validated. After 12 hours with no response or edit, moderator deletes the offending post.
 - V. Offensive post removed immediately by moderator, UNANIMOUS vote by EB to ban member:
Immediate 1 week suspension (30 points) OR 30 days plus 30 points if previously disciplined.

Member is permanently banned from forums if points total reaches or exceeds 50 points.

---This is the nuclear option, reserved for the most offensive posts – including patently foul, vulgar language or slang not acceptable on network television, explicit personal attacks, harassment/threats, and illegal material.

Summary of cumulative points system:

- *5 points: member receives an Official Warning
- *20 points: member receives a 3 day suspension
- *30 points: member receives a 1 week suspension
- *40 points: member receives a 30 day suspension
- *50 points: member is permanently banned

Procedure:

1. It is strongly recommended that if a member is dissatisfied with the wording, tone, or content of a post, he or she request via private message to the original poster that the comments be edited. If left unresolved, any member may report a post, either by clicking on the red "report" button at the top of each post or by emailing the executive board at executiveboard@parkstamps.org.
2. In order for a word, slang, innuendo, or topic to be considered inappropriate for the forums, the member reporting the post must explain/justify how the use of the wording in context is patently offensive. A list of offensive words will not be published. Members are expected to observe a degree of civility commensurate with the academic nature of studying and appreciating the national parks movement. With that said, however, a rule of thumb all members should consider is to avoid words that are typically not allowed on broadcast television prior to 10pm or in front of mixed company at dinner, for example; keep in mind that the NPTC counts many junior members as part of its club roster.
3. In certain cases, a moderator may elect to remove and archive the post in question until an executive board vote has been taken to determine if a violation has occurred. If a moderator does elect to temporarily archive a post and it is declared to not be in violation, it will be restored.
4. If a violation is declared, a member of the Executive Board will contact the offending poster using the flow chart of actions and points published. The board member in charge of documenting TOU-related
5. A member may appeal the decision to enforce a TOU infraction. Should points be levied and/or a suspension enforced, the offending member may within 48 hours of the notice contact the Executive Board at executiveboard@parkstamps.org. An independent ombudsman panel will weigh the merits of the argument and may vote to overturn or lessen the severity of the recorded violation.
6. After one year of violation-free use of www.parkstamps.org, user points will be restored to zero provided that the user was not permanently banned from the forums.

(Adopted March 29, 2010, Amended December 13, 2012, Amended October 11, 2013,
Amended April 8, 2014, Amended November 25, 2014, Amended January 10, 2015)