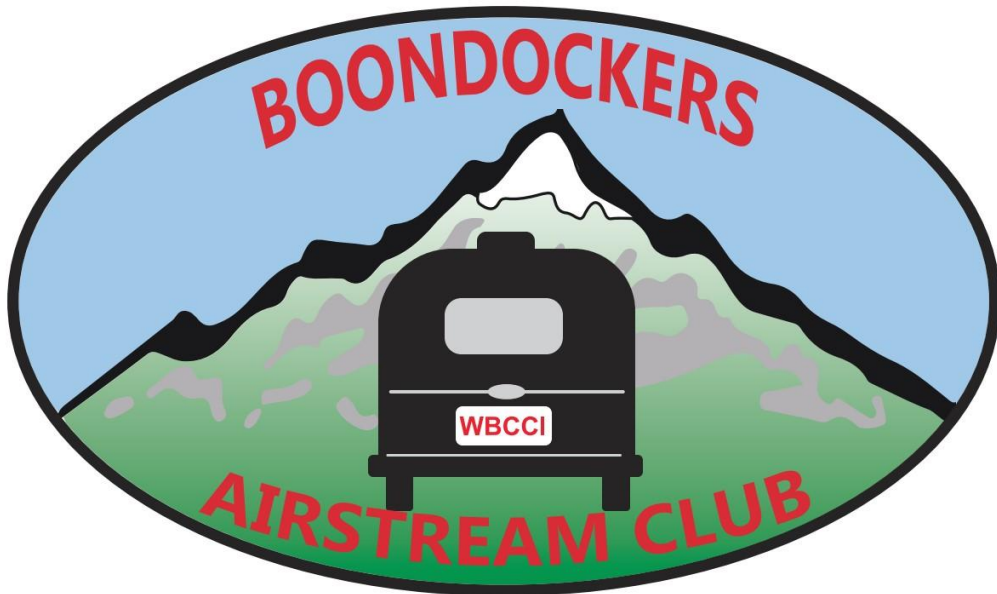


Boondocking Basics

Etiquette On The Road



Boondockers Airstream Club
Airstream Club International
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Beyond Land Use Rules



Most boondocking locations have specific rules based on the type of location.

Become familiar with state and national land rules before choosing to set up camp.

Most Boondockers use common sense and good judgement to make the dry camping experience pleasant for everyone.

Here are some common Common Sense considerations.

Don't Blaze Your Own Trails

- **Use Existing Roads:** When camping on BLM or forest lands, we want to have as minimal impact as possible. That means stay on existing roads and not blazing new trails. It is always a good idea to reconnoiter a location that you have not seen before or that cannot be easily seen to avoid finding yourself in a predicament you cannot easily get out of. Always be aware of weather – both past and expected.
- **Use Existing Camping Spots:** Set up camp in an area that looks like it is used for overnight stays. Destroying vegetation to find that perfect camping spot can permanently damage an ecosystem.
- **Fire Rules:** We literally don't want to be blazing new trails by having illegal or unattended fires. So know the rules of where you are planning to boondock and never leave a fire unattended.
- **Leave No Trace:** Think of yourself as a backcountry backpacker. You are a visitor, so what you bring in should be taken back out again. No dumping of water or trash. If you can leave the site in better condition than when you arrived.

Neighborly Love

- **Stay Limits:** Most public lands have 14 day limits with mileage requirements for additional stays. There are areas that are more, less or not restrictive. Know the rules and follow them.
- **Respectful Distances:** Use common sense and park a “respectful” distance way away from your neighbor. The definition of “respectful” can vary and depends on the size of the location, but if there is space use it! If it doesn’t appear there is space for another rig, don’t stay. Most of us are out to “get away” and want space – so afford others that courtesy.
- **Turn off Your Lights:** There is nothing more irritating than the RV lights left on after dark – Use Dark Sky park rules to avoid being that neighbor.
- **Noise, Noise, Noise:** When out in the wilds, there is beauty in the quietude. So use more common sense about playing loud music and use “voice control” when in the presence of other campers.

Generators

- **Hours:** Most dispersed camping areas do not have generator rules. Always check first. Typically, limiting generator use to mid morning or mid afternoon is most respectful. Running a generator overnight when camping with others is not the most courteous action. The use of smaller power stations, like Jackery, can help run low use appliances at night.
- **Noise:** Generators make noise – there is no avoiding it. If you are camping alone, noise is up to your own preference. But if you are camping near another, it is common courtesy to limit the noise to hours when others may not be in camp. It is also courteous to keep the generator a distance away from another rig.
- **Reduce Reliance:** There are portable solar solutions and energy management techniques that can reduce reliance of generator use. Explore these options.

Pets

- **On Leash/Off Leash:** Our pets love boondocking as much as we do. Many boondockers allow their pets off leash. If you have an aggressive pet, keep them on leash or contained.
- **Barking:** Shouldn't have to mention this, but keeping dog barking to a minimum is common courtesy. If you leave your dog alone in your rig and they bark incessantly, it is not a good experience for your neighbors.
- **Clean Up:** The wide open outdoors is not the place to not clean up after your pets. Whether on the trail or on the site, leave no trace applies to pet waste too!

Share The Land

- **To Be Social or Not:** Airstreamers are a social group but we also enjoy our privacy. So be aware of your surroundings. If your neighbor waves, wave back. If they ignore you, probably best to reciprocate. Use your judgement and be safe about being neighborly.
- **Leave Early:** If it is your day to leave, try to leave on the early side to allow those looking for that same spot to set up and enjoy the day.
- **Respect Nature:** We all love to have memories – collecting rocks, flowers, fossils, etc. But being respectful of the places we enjoy means leaving it where we found it.
- **This Land Is Our Land:** This beautiful country is ours to explore but it doesn't belong to us. Sometimes our favorite spot isn't available. Some times, someone comes in that makes you feel uncomfortable – trust your instincts and pull up camp.