

CAMPING ON THE PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL

Have you thought about completing the Prescott Circle Trail as a backpack or bike pack? Here are some considerations before you set out on your camping sojourn. While a good digital map is available from the [City of Prescott website](#), hikers/bikers will want to get their hands on the City of Prescott print map brochure, available at the Hike Shack in town, or at several trailside kiosks. The detail is great, and it covers all the adjacent trails. See also the Prescott National Forest US Forest Service Map and Guide for the Prescott Circle Trail.

PLAN AHEAD! There are limited water sources, and camp sites, so one needs to plan before hitting the trail. The Yavapai, White Spar, and Watson Lake Campgrounds are the only on-route camping options. Camping in the forest is allowed at designated sites only.

PERMITS: A permit is not necessary to hike/bike the trail, but camping, and sometimes parking, do require fees and potentially reservations for the campgrounds. City of Prescott trailheads requires a day fee, while the NF trailheads have free parking.

There are first-come-first-served campsites available at the three campgrounds, but a reservation is preferred if your itinerary is certain. Yavapai Campground and White Spar Campground are managed by Prescott National Forest, Watson Lake by the city of Prescott.

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IS THE PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL DOG-FRIENDLY? Yes, you may hike with your dog, but they must be always kept on a leash. Also, keep in mind that this is a dry climate with limited water so you and your dog should carry sufficient water. You may want to consider dog footwear to protect your dog from spiky desert plants.

REGULATIONS:

- Follow Leave no Trace ethics at all times. Carry your trash to the next receptacle, usually only found at campgrounds. Be tidy and clean when camping.
- Practice good trail etiquette. Bikers should yield to both hikers and horses.
- If nature calls while toilet facilities aren't available, bury your waste and pack out your TP to a trash bin.
- Respect private property. The trail passes near homes and kids' camps properties.
- Camp only in designated areas in the Prescott Basin zone of the National Forest.

Once you have completed the Circle Trail, remember to submit your Prescott Circle Trail Challenge form on the Yavapai Trails Association website. You will receive a certificate and your choice of a Prescott Circle Trail patch or Sticker. Congratulations!