

Guidelines for NAPgA Rendezvous:

Location:

The Rendy location should be accessible to cars, trailers and motorhomes.

The area should be able to be reserved for our group, with no other groups intermixed.

The area should be large enough to accommodate 20-30 cars and 10 motorhome or trailers without being crowded. There should be a large common area capable of gathering 5-75 people at one time for dinners and educational and campfire activities. It should be the correct type of land use permitted for a gathering of this size.

Goats should be able to walk about freely, or with a minimum of restraint.

Next to a busy road or with non-goat campers nearby is not practical. Trailheads should be very close, driving is OK but ½-hour drive to the trailhead is as far as most people want to do based on time constraints. Multiple trailheads are preferred, preferably some easy and some more difficult.

Organization:

Contact information for past Rendezvous hosts can be provided if you want to talk to people about their experience in hosting an event. People could contact these individuals specifically if they want advice/support/assistance with getting their volunteer project going.

The person who will be doing the actual organizing should be close enough to go to the site for pre-planning and to work with the land manager, volunteer coordinator and permit issuer. Your application containing a description of the location, an idea of permits needed and possible land use projects to be performed must be submitted to the NAPgA BOD by Nov 1st of the year prior to your Rendy date.

Your date needs to be picked by December 1st of the year before your Rendy.

If permits are required by the land manager they are required by NAPgA. Make sure your special use permit is in place before the Rendy. You will want to keep checking with your land manager until your permits are in place. **More than one person has been burned by "handshake" or verbal permits.**

Make sure also that an insurance bond is not going to be required by the land manager or permittee.

Find out if there is a fee for vendors and make sure vendors know ahead of time what they are expected to do. Some areas disallow vendors entirely (The FS usually doesn't allow direct selling on site). Bear in mind that your date most likely can't be changed without many people not being able to attend due to not being able to change vacation dates. June to August dates are best, September dates are competing with school and hunting season and snow is still in most areas until the middle or end of June.

Check on toilet facilities and make sure that if there are not enough you can rent some porta-potties. You will have to be there to meet the porta-potty guy or make arrangements to pay him first (that one is not 100%).

Close to the event:

The hosts should provide guests with info on whether/not plants poisonous to goats are in the area, how to identify or avoid them.

You will need to find out about the need for weed free certified hay in your area and take orders for it. This will also necessitate hauling it to the site. People will pay extra with their entry or reimburse you when they get there. We have traditionally ended up with hay leftover so plan to remove it when the Rendy is over.

Try to plan your volunteer day for the day before the Rendy officially starts which is commonly Thursday or Friday.

Decide if you are going to provide any meals, commonly either a big spaghetti dinner or a potluck happens on Friday & Saturday (planned by you) and other events may be planned by NAPgA or other members.

Put up maps of the local trails glued or pinned to a board so attendees can look at choices for hikes. If you are planning presentations, be aware that most people would rather hike in the morning and early afternoon and schedule in camp activities accordingly.

Keep apprised of fire restrictions.

Put together a packet of maps, directions instructions on vending, etc, and mail to the entries. This should be sent 30 days prior to the event.

You will need to check on availability of water and arrange to have water brought in if not available. Previously water has been brought in (100 gallons on a truck).

You will need to plan a way to tarp a large area, either with poles and a large tarp over a picnic table or a canopy or two.

Budget Items:

PortaPotties - [at least 2]

Extra toilet paper and paper towels

Firewood if not available onsite. Try to get a donation if you haven't got some yourself.

Food? [Incidentals for meals]

Site costs - Permits

A tank of gas for the person doing the early checking and site prep.

Actual costs of these incidentals will be reimbursed after the Rendy (unless specifically required prior) on presentation of receipts. The permits can be paid by NAPgA by asking the treasurer to write a check. (treasurer will have a checkbook at the Rendy)

The day before Event:

Post directional signs as needed (remembering that most folks will not be familiar with the area of the Rendy).

Check with land use volunteer project person

Bring in firewood and hay

Set up tarp area and common meeting area

During Event:

Have fun!

After Event:

Clean up site-with help-we are a pretty clean group but it needs to be checked

Remove firewood, hay, toilets, etc. if necessary.

Check on vendor money if needed and send amounts to land manager

Send a thank you to the land manager.

[Past Rendezvous Organizers]

Steve & Donna Semasko <edelweissacres@comcast.net>

Rex & Terri Summerfield <terri@northwestpackgoats.com>

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