



Finding and Booking Campsites Online

you want An Extended Guide · No. 2063

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 2063** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

4. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you remember only this page, you will still make a smart choice. Booking a campsite online means reserving a specific spot at a specific park ahead of time, through a website or an app, instead of hoping one is free when you arrive. A few big booking systems cover most public parks, and a handful of review apps help you decide where to go. Once you learn them, the whole thing takes a few minutes. Most popular public campgrounds take reservations online ahead of time Recreation.gov covers federal land; state parks use their own systems Ohio State Parks book through the state's ODNR system Review apps like Campendium and The Dyrty help you choose a good park Popular Ohio sites for summer and holidays fill early — book ahead You do not need to learn every website at once. For most Ohio campers, knowing the Ohio State Parks system and one or two review apps covers the great majority of trips. WHAT IT IS 2. What Booking Online Means Booking online is just reserving your campsite over the internet, the same way you might book a hotel room or theater tickets. You pick the park, pick the dates, pick an available site, pay, and get a confirmation. When you arrive, that spot is held in your name and nobody else can take it. It replaces the old way of driving in and grabbing whatever was open. For quiet, out-of-the-way places that old way still works. For the popular parks, especially on weekends and holidays, a reservation is the only way to be sure of a spot. TIP Think of a campsite reservation like a dinner reservation. You could walk in and hope, but on a busy night you will be glad you called ahead and locked in your table.

WHY IT MATTERS

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3. Why the Good Sites Go Fast Camping has grown enormously popular, and the best sites at the best parks — the lakefront spots, the shady pull-throughs, the ones with full hookups — get snapped up quickly. If you wait until the week before a summer weekend, you may find nothing left, or only the leftover sites next to the dumpster. Lakefront and shady sites go first Summer weekends and holidays fill the fastest Waiting too long leaves only the least desirable spots Booking ahead gets you the site you actually want None of this is meant to stress you. It simply means a little planning gets you a much better trip, and this guide makes that planning easy. BE HONEST 4. Which Sites Even Take Reservations Not everything needs booking online. Here is the honest picture. Developed parks with numbered sites and hookups almost always take reservations. Quiet, primitive, and dispersed camping areas often do not — they are first-come or free-for-all. Knowing which kind of trip you are planning tells you whether you need to book at all. Developed parks with hookups: reserve online, often months ahead Primitive or dispersed areas: often first-come, no booking Popular lakes and state parks: reserve, especially in summer Remote backcountry spots: usually no reservation system at all WATCH OUT Do not assume every trip needs a reservation, and do not assume a popular park will have room if you just show up. Find out how your chosen park works before you count on a spot.

THE BIG PLAYERS**6. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

5. The Main Booking Websites Only a few systems handle the bulk of public campground bookings, and once you know them the whole landscape makes sense. Recreation.gov handles federal lands. ReserveAmerica runs many state parks. Ohio State Parks use the state's own ODNR system. Private parks usually book through their own websites.

Recreation.gov: national parks, forests, and federal land ReserveAmerica: many state park systems across the country Ohio State Parks: book through the state's ODNR system

Private RV parks: usually their own website or a phone call If you learn just the one system your favorite parks use, you are most of the way there. You can pick up the others as your travels take you farther afield. RECREATION.GOV 6. Recreation.gov for Federal Lands

Recreation.gov is the official booking site for federal campgrounds — national parks, national forests, Army Corps of Engineers lakes, and more. It covers an enormous number of places, including some Army Corps reservoirs in our region. You search by location or park name, pick your dates, and book a specific site. The official site for federal campgrounds nationwide Covers national parks, forests, and Corps lakes Search by location, park name, or dates One account works across all the federal sites it handles TIP Berlin Lake and some other Army Corps reservoirs in our area fall under the federal system. If you fish or camp at a Corps lake, Recreation.gov is likely where you will book.

RESERVEAMERICA

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7. ReserveAmerica for State Parks ReserveAmerica is a booking platform that many state park systems use to handle their reservations. If you travel to another state and camp in its state parks, there is a good chance you will book through ReserveAmerica. It works much like the others: search, pick dates, choose a site, and pay. Used by many state park systems around the country Handy when you travel to other states Same basic steps: search, pick dates, choose a site Set up an account to speed up future bookings Which system a state uses can change over time, so if a link does not work, search for the state's official park reservation page rather than trusting an old bookmark. OHIO PARKS 8. Booking Ohio State Parks For those of us in Portage County, Ohio State Parks are the bread and butter of camping, and they book through the state's ODNR system. West Branch, with its big reservoir, and other nearby state parks take reservations this way. Start from the official Ohio Department of Natural Resources site to be sure you are in the right place. Ohio State Parks book through the state's ODNR system Start from the official ODNR website to find the booking page West Branch and other nearby parks reserve this way Set up an account for faster bookings next time WATCH OUT The exact web address for Ohio's booking system can change. Always start from the official ODNR site and follow its links, rather than trusting a search result that might be an imitator.

DISCOVERY APPS**8. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

9. Apps for Finding a Site Separate from the booking systems are the discovery apps, which help you find and compare campgrounds with reviews, photos, and honest notes from other travelers. They do not always handle the booking themselves, but they are how you decide where to go before you reserve. Campendium, The Dyrty, Hipcamp, and iOverlander are the popular ones. Discovery apps help you find and compare parks. They carry reviews and photos from real campers. Some book for you; others send you to the park's system. Use them to choose, then book through the right system. **TIP** Use a discovery app to narrow down where you want to go, then make the actual reservation through the official booking system for that park. The two work hand in hand.

CAMPENDIUM 10. Campendium for Reviews Campendium is a well-liked app and website for finding campgrounds, with reviews, photos, and notes on things that matter to RVers — like cell signal, site size, and whether big rigs fit. It covers public and private parks as well as free spots. It is a great first stop when you are deciding where to point the rig. Reviews and photos for public, private, and free sites. Notes on cell signal, site size, and big-rig access. A strong first stop for choosing a destination. Free to browse, with optional paid extras. The cell-signal notes in Campendium are especially useful if you need to stay connected. My campground Wi-Fi guide goes deeper on staying online once you arrive.

THE DYRT

9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

11. The Dyrt and Its Pro Tier The Dyrt is another popular campground app with a huge pile of reviews and photos. It has a free tier that covers most needs and a paid Pro tier, which has run around sixty dollars a year, adding offline maps, trip planning, and discounts. Try the free version first and upgrade only if the extras earn their keep for how you travel. Large collection of reviews and photos Free tier covers most campers' needs Pro tier, around sixty dollars a year, adds offline maps and perks Try free first; upgrade only if the extras pay off WATCH OUT Prices and what each tier includes change over time, so confirm the current cost before you subscribe. Do not pay for Pro until you know the free version is not already enough for you. HIPCAMP 12. Hipcamp for Private Land Hipcamp is a bit different — it lists camping on private land, like a farm field, a vineyard, or a patch of someone's woods. Think of it as the camping version of booking a room in someone's home. It is a lovely way to find quiet, unusual spots you would never see on the public systems, and you book right through the app. Camping on private land — farms, ranches, and quiet acreage Unique, often peaceful spots off the public radar Book directly through the Hipcamp app or site Read the host's rules and amenities carefully Private-land sites vary wildly, from bare fields to spots with hookups. Read the listing closely so you know exactly what you are getting before you book.

IOVERLANDER**10. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

13. iOverlander for Dispersed Spots iOverlander is a free, traveler-built app that marks dispersed and free camping spots, along with practical stops like dump stations and water. It is beloved by boondockers who want to camp off the grid without a reservation. The information comes from other travelers, so it is honest but not always perfectly up to date. Free app marking dispersed and no-cost camping Also shows dump stations, water, and services Built from travelers' own reports Great for boondockers who skip reservations Because the info is crowd-sourced, double-check that a free spot is still open and legal before you rely on it. Rules on dispersed camping change, so confirm locally. PRIVATE PARKS 14. Private RV Parks and Their Own Sites Privately owned RV parks and campgrounds usually handle their own reservations, through their own website or a phone call. These parks often have more amenities — pools, laundry, stronger Wi-Fi — and a price to match. You find them through the discovery apps or a plain web search, then book directly with the park. Private parks book through their own site or by phone Often more amenities than public parks, at a higher price Find them through discovery apps or a web search Call directly if the website booking is confusing For a private park, a quick phone call can answer questions a website cannot — like whether your long rig fits a particular site or whether the pool is open the week you are coming.

ACCOUNT**11. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

15. Setting Up Your Account Most booking systems ask you to create an account with an email and password before you reserve. It saves your details so future bookings go faster and keeps all your reservations in one place. Set it up with a password you can remember, and write it down somewhere safe so you are not locked out next season.

- 1** Go to the official booking site and choose to create an account
- 2** Enter your email and a strong password
- 3** Add your name and basic details for faster checkout
- 4** Write the login in your password keeper or a safe notebook **WATCH OUT** My family password guide shows how to set up a password keeper so you never lose a login. One keeper holds all your booking accounts, and you only remember one master password.

SEARCHING 16. Searching for the Right Park Every booking site lets you search by where you want to go and when. Type in a region, a lake, or a park name, add your dates, and it shows what is available. You can usually filter for the things you need, like hookups, a certain site length, or a pet-friendly spot, so you only see sites that work for you. Search by region, lake, or park name Add your arrival and departure dates Filter for hookups, site length, and pets Only sites that fit your needs show up If your first choice is full, widen the search a little. A park ten miles over, or shifting your dates by a day or two, often opens up exactly the kind of site you wanted.

READING A LISTING

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17. Reading a Campsite Listing A campsite listing is packed with useful detail once you know what to look for. It tells you the site type, the hookups, the maximum rig length, whether it is shaded or open, and how close it is to the water and the restrooms. Reading it carefully before you book saves you from a surprise when you pull in. Site type and whether it fits an RV or a tent Hookups available — electric, water, sewer Maximum rig length the site allows Distance to water, restrooms, and the dump station **TIP** Read the whole listing, not just the price. The maximum length and the hookup details are what keep you from booking a site your rig cannot actually use. **SITE TYPES 18. Understanding Site Types** Campgrounds label their sites by type, and the words matter. A pull-through lets you drive in one end and out the other without backing up — a gift for a big rig. A back-in requires reversing into the spot. Tent sites may not suit an RV at all. Primitive sites have no hookups. Know which you are booking. Pull-through: drive straight in and out, easiest for big rigs Back-in: you reverse into the spot Tent site: may not fit or allow an RV Primitive: no hookups, just a place to park If backing a big rig makes you nervous, filter for pull-through sites. They cost a little more sometimes but save a lot of stress at the end of a long driving day.

HOOKUPS**13. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

19. Hookups: What the Letters Mean Hookups are the connections at your site, and listings describe them in shorthand. Electric gives you power at the post. Water gives you a faucet to connect a hose. Sewer lets you empty your tanks right at the site. Full hookups means all three. No hookups means you run on your own batteries, water, and tanks. Electric: power at the post, often 30 or 50 amp Water: a faucet to connect your fresh-water hose Sewer: empty your tanks at the site Full hookups: all three; no hookups: you are self-contained **WATCH OUT** Check whether the electric is 30 or 50 amp and that it matches your rig. My surge protector guide covers protecting your rig from bad pedestal wiring once you plug in. **RIG FIT 20. Making Sure Your Rig Fits the Site** The single most common booking mistake is reserving a site your rig does not fit. Every listing gives a maximum length, and you must know your rig's true length, including anything you tow. If your rig is forty feet and the site maxes at thirty, you will not fit, no matter how pretty the photo looks.

- 1** Know your rig's full length, including a towed car or trailer
- 2** Check the site's maximum length in the listing
- 3** Leave a little margin — do not book right at the limit
- 4** When unsure, call the park and ask **TIP** My RV GPS guide covers measuring your rig once and writing the numbers down. That same length tells you in a glance whether a site will fit before you book it.

MAPS & PHOTOS

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21. Using Site Maps and Photos Most booking systems show a map of the campground and often photos of individual sites. Use them. The map tells you whether a site is near the lake or the busy playground, close to the bathhouse or far from it. Photos reveal shade, slope, and how close your neighbors will be. A minute studying these pays off for your whole stay. Study the campground map for the site's location See whether it is near water, restrooms, or busy areas Photos show shade, slope, and privacy Pick the spot, not just the park Being near the restroom is handy at night but can mean foot traffic and light. Being on the far loop is quieter but a longer walk. The map lets you choose the trade-off you prefer. PICKING A SITE 22. Picking a Good Specific Site When the system lets you choose your exact site, take the time to pick well. Think about what matters to you — morning shade, a view of the water, distance from the road, level ground. A few minutes comparing specific sites is the difference between a spot you love and one you merely tolerate. Choose your exact site when the system allows Weigh shade, view, level ground, and quiet Avoid sites right by the entrance or dumpster Read reviews for the particular site if they exist TIP Level ground matters more than you might think. A site with a noticeable slope means a restless night and a harder setup, so favor the flatter options when you can.

THE BOOKING WINDOW

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23. The Reservation Window Most parks open their reservations a set amount of time in advance — often six months to a year before your arrival date. This is called the booking window. For the most popular parks and dates, sites can be claimed the very morning they become available, so knowing when the window opens is half the battle. Parks open bookings a set time ahead — often six months to a year. The most popular sites go the morning they open. Know the window for your park and date. Mark the opening day on your calendar. For a dream site at a famous park on a holiday weekend, treat the booking window opening like concert tickets. Be logged in and ready the moment it opens.

BOOKING EARLY 24. Booking Popular Sites Early For sought-after Ohio parks in summer, the practical advice is simple: book as early as the window allows. Waiting leaves you with scraps or nothing. Have your account set up, your dates chosen, and your rig details handy so you can move fast when a prime site appears, because someone else is after it too.

- 1 Set up your account well before the booking window opens
- 2 Know your dates and your rig length in advance
- 3 Log in and be ready when the window opens
- 4 Book quickly, then double-check the details TIP Have everything ready the night before a big booking opens — account logged in, site picked out, payment saved. When the clock strikes, seconds can decide who gets the lakefront spot.

HOLIDAYS**16. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

25. Holidays and Summer Weekends Holiday weekends are the hardest of all to book. Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day fill the fastest and earliest. If a holiday trip is your plan, build it around the booking window, not the other way around. Flexibility on dates or park is your best friend when everyone wants the same long weekend. Holiday weekends fill first and fast Plan the trip around when booking opens Flexibility on dates opens up more choices Midweek stays are far easier to get If you can camp midweek instead of on the weekend, a world of availability opens up. The same park that is jammed on Saturday may be half empty on a Tuesday. MAKING THE BOOKING 26. Making the Reservation Step by Step Once you have found your site and dates, the actual booking is quick. You confirm the site and dates, enter or confirm your details, pay, and receive a confirmation. Read the summary carefully before you pay, checking that the park, site, and dates are exactly what you meant. Then you are done.

- 1** Select your site and confirm your dates
- 2** Enter your rig and party details
- 3** Review the summary — park, site, dates, and price
- 4** Pay and wait for the confirmation to appear
- 5** Save or print the confirmation **WATCH OUT** Double-check the dates before you pay. Booking the wrong night is an easy slip, and depending on the park's rules, fixing it can cost you a change fee or a lost deposit.

FEES**17. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

27. Fees and What You Actually Pay The price you see is often not the only charge. On top of the nightly site fee there may be a reservation or booking fee, and sometimes a separate park entry fee. Nightly rates vary widely by park and site type. Read the full breakdown so the total at checkout does not surprise you. A nightly site fee that varies by park and site A reservation or booking fee on top Sometimes a separate park entry fee Read the full total before you confirm Prices change from year to year and park to park, so confirm the current rates at the time you book. The booking fee is usually small but worth knowing about in advance. PAYING 28. Paying Safely Online You pay with a card, the same as any online purchase. The key safety point is to be sure you are on the real, official booking site, not a lookalike. Check that the web address matches the official park system, and only enter your card on a page that is secure. When in doubt, go back to the park's official site and start fresh. Pay with a card on the official booking site Make sure the web address is the real one Look for the secure padlock before entering card details When unsure, start over from the official park page WATCH OUT Scammers set up fake campground booking sites that look real. If you reached the page through a random search ad or a link in an email, stop and go to the official site directly instead.

CONFIRMATION**18. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

29. Saving Your Confirmation After you pay, the system gives you a confirmation — a number, an email, and often a printable page. Save it. You may need it to check in, especially if cell signal at the park is poor and you cannot pull it up online. A printed copy in the glove box is the surest backup.

- 1** Note your confirmation number when it appears
- 2** Save the confirmation email in an easy-to-find spot
- 3** Print a copy for the glove box
- 4** Have it ready for check-in at the park TIP Print the confirmation before you leave home Wi-Fi. If the park has no signal, a paper copy means you are not stuck at the gate unable to prove your reservation. CHANGES 30. Changing or Canceling a Reservation Plans change, and most systems let you modify or cancel a booking from your account. You

sign in, find the reservation, and choose to change the dates, move sites, or cancel. Do it as early as you can, because the rules on refunds and fees usually depend on how far ahead you make the change.

- 5 Sign in to the booking system you used
- 6 Find the reservation in your account
- 7 Choose to change the dates or site, or to cancel
- 8 Note any fee or refund the system shows you The sooner you cancel a trip you cannot take, the more of your money you are likely to get back — and the sooner someone else can enjoy the site you are freeing up.

CANCELLATION RULES

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31. Cancellation Rules and Refunds Every park system has its own rules about refunds, and they are worth reading before you book, not after your plans fall through. Typically you get most of your money back if you cancel well ahead, less as the date nears, and perhaps nothing if you cancel at the last minute or simply do not show up. Cancel early for the biggest refund Refunds shrink as your arrival date approaches A no-show often forfeits the whole payment Read the rules before booking, not after WATCH OUT A non-refundable booking is a real risk if your health or the weather might force a change. Know the cancellation terms before you commit money to a date months away. CANCELED SPOTS

32. Snagging a Canceled Spot If a park looks fully booked, do not give up. People cancel all the time, and a site can free up days or even hours before a weekend. Check back often, especially in the evenings and a few days before your dates. Some apps even offer alerts that notify you when a spot opens at a park you want. Full today does not mean full on your date Check back often as people cancel Evenings and the final days before a trip are good times to look Some apps send alerts when a spot opens up TIP A cancellation alert can land you a prime site at a 'sold out' park. The Dyrty and similar apps offer this feature, which is worth it if you have your heart set on a specific place.

FIRST COME

20. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

33. First-Come, First-Served Sites Not every site is reservable. Many parks keep some sites, or whole campgrounds, as first-come, first-served — you simply arrive and take an open one. This suits spontaneous trips and quieter seasons. The trade-off is uncertainty: on a busy weekend you might arrive to find everything taken. Some sites are first-come, no reservation possible Great for spontaneous, off-peak trips Arrive early in the day for the best chance Have a backup plan if it is full For first-come sites, arriving by mid-morning when the previous night's campers are leaving gives you the best shot. Always have a second park in mind just in case. REVIEWS 34. Trusting the Reviews Reviews from other campers are gold, but read them with a little judgment. One grumpy review about a rainy weekend is not the whole story. Look for patterns — if many people mention tight sites, bad roads, or noise, believe it. Recent photos tell you more than old ones about how a park actually looks. Look for patterns across many reviews, not one complaint Repeated mentions of a problem are worth believing Newer photos show the park's true state Weigh reviews against your own needs and tastes What one camper calls too quiet another calls peaceful. Read reviews for facts like site size and signal, and take the feelings with a grain of salt.

SCAMS**21. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

35. Avoiding Fake Booking Sites Sadly, scammers build fake campground booking sites to steal card numbers. They buy search ads and send emails that look official. The defense is simple: always start from the park's or agency's official website, and be suspicious of any site you reached through an ad or an unexpected email. If a deal looks too good, it probably is. Start from the official park or agency website Be wary of booking sites reached through ads or emails Check the web address matches the real agency A too-good-to-be-true price is a red flag WATCH OUT No official park system will email you out of the blue demanding immediate payment to hold a site. If you get such a message, do not click — go to the official site yourself. PHONE BOOKING 36. Booking by Phone Instead If a website frustrates you, most park systems and private parks still take reservations by phone. A real person can answer questions the website cannot and walk you through the booking. It may take longer and the best sites sometimes go to online bookers first, but it is a perfectly good option, especially for private parks. Most systems and private parks still book by phone A person can answer questions a website cannot Handy if the website gives you trouble Have your dates and rig details ready before you call TIP For a private park with a tricky layout, a phone call can be the better choice. Ask the staff which site best fits your rig — they know their own park better than any website.

CHECK-IN**22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

37. Arriving and Checking In When you arrive, you check in at the camp office or a self-serve kiosk, show or give your confirmation, and get directions to your site. Many parks have a set check-in time, so arriving too early may mean waiting for the previous camper to leave. Knowing the park's check-in and quiet hours before you go makes arrival smooth. Check in at the office or a self-serve kiosk Have your confirmation number or printout ready Note the park's check-in time so you are not early Ask about quiet hours and gate codes If you will arrive after the office closes, call ahead and ask about late check-in. Many parks leave your site assignment and a map in an envelope by the door. CELL SIGNAL AT SITE 38. Knowing the Signal Before You Book If staying connected matters to you — for work, for family, or just for peace of mind — check the cell signal before you book, not after you arrive. Discovery apps like Campendium carry signal reports from other campers. A beautiful site with no bars can be a problem if you need to make a call or check in with the grandkids. Check signal reports in the discovery apps before booking A pretty site with no bars may not suit you Signal matters most if you work or need to stay reachable Plan for it rather than being surprised on arrival TIP My guides to campground Wi-Fi, hotspots, and satellite messengers cover staying connected when the signal is weak. Knowing the signal before you book lets you plan ahead.

GROUP & ACCESSIBLE**23. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

39. Group Sites and Accessible Sites If you are camping with a big family gathering or you need an accessible site, the booking systems let you filter for both. Group sites hold several rigs or tents together. Accessible sites offer features like firmer ground, closer parking, and barrier-free paths. Filter for exactly what you need so you do not book a site that will not serve your group. Group sites hold several rigs or a big gathering Accessible sites offer firmer ground and barrier-free paths Filter for these specifically when searching Book group sites extra early — there are fewer of them There are usually only a handful of group and accessible sites per park, so they book up fast. If you need one, treat the booking window opening as the moment to act. COMMON WORRIES 40. The Questions People Ask Me Most When folks sit down to book their first trip online, the same worries come up. Here are the honest answers to the ones I hear most, so you can reserve with confidence. 'Is it safe to pay online?' Yes, on the official site with a secure page 'What if I need to cancel?' Most let you, with rules on refunds 'How early must I book?' For popular summer dates, as early as you can 'Can I still just show up?' At quiet, first-come parks, yes The honest truth is that online booking, once you have done it once, is easier than the old way of driving around hoping. The first time is the only hard one. TROUBLESHOOTING 41. When the Site Won't Let You Book If a booking will not go through, the fix is usually simple. Most snags come from a site too short for your rig, a date outside the booking window, a payment that was declined, or a busy system on opening morning. Work through the basics calmly before you give up on the spot.

TIP

24. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

- 1 Check that your dates are within the park's booking window
- 2 Confirm the site's max length fits your rig
- 3 Try a different card if payment is declined
- 4 Refresh or wait a moment if the system is busy at opening
- 5 Call the park's phone line if the website keeps failing On a busy opening morning, the system can bog down under the rush. Stay calm, keep trying, and have the phone number ready as a backup way to grab the site. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Campsite Booking Checklist Here is the short version to keep handy. If you can check these off, you are ready to find and lock in a great site without stress. Know my rig's true length for the site maximum Set up accounts on the systems my favorite parks use Know when the booking window opens for popular dates Read the full listing — hookups, length, and location Checked the cancellation rules before paying Saved and printed my confirmation Checked the cell signal if staying connected matters Tape a short version inside a cabinet door. The two lines that save the most grief are knowing your rig length and knowing when booking opens. WHEN TO CALL 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me A lot of folks can book a campsite online once someone shows them how the first time. But if the websites feel confusing, if you want help setting up your accounts and passwords, or if you would simply rather have someone sit beside you and walk through booking your first trip, that is exactly what I am here for. I am happy to get you set up so the next trip, and every trip after, is something you can do yourself with confidence.

TIP**25. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

I can help you set up your booking accounts, find the right parks for your rig, check the signal where you are headed, and walk through your first reservation start to finish. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It is the short answer to the questions campers ask most about finding and booking sites online. Recreation.gov books federal land; state parks use their own systems Ohio State Parks book through the state's ODNR system — start from the official site Use Campendium and The Dyrty to find and compare parks before you book Know your rig's true length and check each site's maximum before reserving Popular Ohio summer and holiday sites fill early — book as the window opens Read hookups, length, and location in the listing, not just the price Pay only on the official secure site, and save or print your confirmation Check the cancellation rules before you pay, and the cell signal before you book Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP**26. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Site or App Do You Need?

Match the tool to the kind of trip.

Public Parks

Recreation.gov for
federal land
ODNR for Ohio State
Parks
Book the specific site
online

Find and Compare

Campendium and The Dyrt
Reviews, photos, cell
signal
Choose before you book

Off the Grid

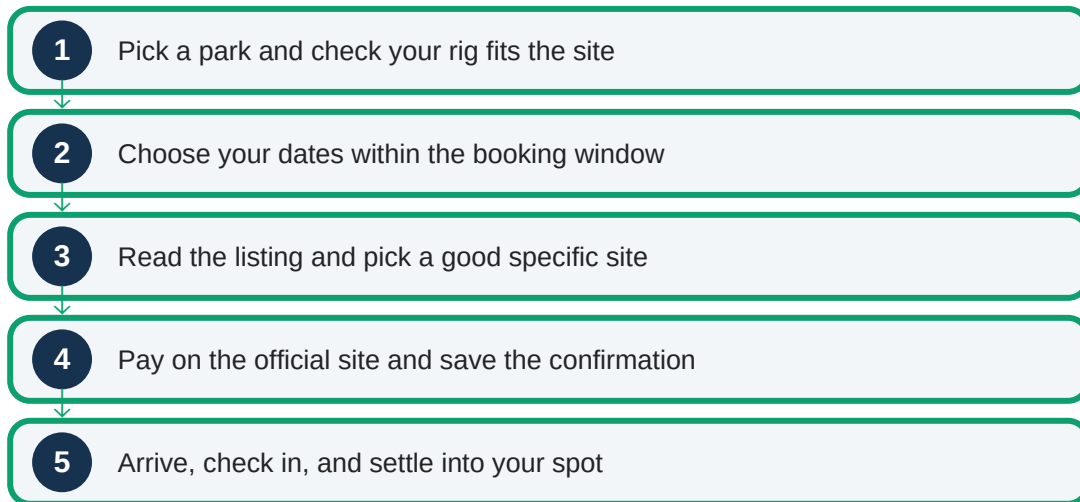
Hipcamp for private land
iOverlander for free
spots
Often no reservation
needed

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Search to Checked In

The whole booking, start to finish.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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