



THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA CAMPS

PEAK PASS

2023-2024 Season Rules & Regulations For Trail Use



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2	Section 1:	Getting Started
PAGE 3	Section 2:	General Information and Rules
PAGE 4	Section 3:	Trail Use & Safety
PAGE 5	Section 4:	Miscellaneous
PAGE 6:	Section 5:	Leave No Trace



SECTION 1: GETTING STARTED

Applying For Your Peak Pass

- To apply for your Hiking Membership, you must visit the administrative office of the South Mountain YMCA Camps, Monday-Friday, 9am– 4:30pm or by appointment.
- If you cannot visit the Camp Office during the week, you can call 610-670-2267 to set an appointment for an in-person application.
- To complete the Peak Pass Application, you will need to:
 - ⇒ Complete a sex-offender background check (done in the Camp Office)
 - ⇒ Sign a Peak Pass membership waiver
 - ⇒ Pay the annual membership fee of \$60 (additional household members are \$10)
- Once awarded, your Peak Pass may not be transferred to any other individual.
- A Peak Pass is generally good from September 1st through the following May 31st.
- A Peak Pass cannot be used in June, July, or August.
- A Peak Pass must be renewed annually, and background checks must be conducted annually.

Using Your Peak Pass

- Your Peak Pass is good for September 1, 2023, until May 31, 2024, regardless of what month you apply for it.
- Your Peak Pass gives you access to the trails on the former Cameron Estate (Cushion Peak), as well as those on the Post Outdoor Center*.
- When arriving to hike, please use the Trailhead Parking Lot (next to the climbing tower). New trailhead parking lots will be located at the Post Outdoor Center and the Cameron Estate. Always display your parking permit on your rearview mirror or dashboard.

Availability

- Your Peak Pass gives you, and only you, access to our trail system at the Cameron Estate and the Post Outdoor Center.* We ask that you wear or carry your Peak Pass photo ID each time you visit the property.
- Hiking Trails will be available during daylight hours, 7 days a week, for nine months a year. For three months, trail access will be restricted to our summer camp programs. No hiking trails are available during the following months: June, July, August
- Trail access will be available in all weather. In snow events, Trailhead Parking Lots will be plowed as soon as possible. Follow our social media accounts for updates on conditions.
- Trail Maintenance in the winter months will be limited. Snow will not be removed to allow for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

**We expect the Post Outdoor Center trails and parking to come online in 2024.*

**ALWAYS HIKE WITH YOUR ID AND
REMEMBER TO DISPLAY YOUR PARKING PERMIT.**

SECTION 2: GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES

Membership Rules and Responsibilities

1. **Park in designated Trailhead Lots** and prominently display your parking permit.
2. **Peak Pass participants must wear (or carry) a current ID badge.** To aid in patrolling the property, please report any trespasser or vehicles without parking passes to the front desk at the Camp Office. Staff vehicles should be clearly identified with YMCA logos.
3. **Stay on the trails.** Trails are clearly marked with colored reflectors and are described on maps and displays. Keep our forest healthy by staying on those trails.
4. **Keep dogs on a leash.** We love dogs, but they may make others nervous. Keep our trails welcoming for all our guests by keeping your dog on a leash.
5. **Curb you dog.** If you're hiking with your dog(s), please clean up after them.
6. **Peak Pass access is for you and you alone.** Don't allow access to non-pass holders unless they have been presented in the office in advance. First and foremost, we are a children's camp. All visitors to our site must have current sex offender background checks and they must sign our hiking waiver. Likewise, you may not "share" your pass with friends and family. All guest must check in at office .
7. **Leave it better than you found it.** If you are hiking on our property, we expect our members to help maintain our trails and woodlands. Please carry trash back to the Trailhead Lot and dispose of it in proper receptacles.
8. **Hunting is not permitted.**
9. **Fishing is Permitted.** At the pond located at 951 Hill Rd. PA Fishing License is required and must follow all PA Laws.
10. **Participants are encouraged to visit the Peak Pass kiosk in each of the Trailhead parking lots.** One lot is at 200 Cushion Peak Road, and the second is at 951 Hill Road. Kiosks include trail maps, emergency numbers, and comment boxes.*
11. **Use of motorized equipment is prohibited,** including chainsaws, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, ATVs, etc.
12. **Firearms are prohibited at the South Mountain YMCA Camps.**
13. **Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the South Mountain YMCA Camps.**
14. **Wildlife harassment or the destruction of habitat is prohibited.**
15. **Animal, plant, or fungi harvesting is prohibited.**
16. **Overnight camping is prohibited.**
17. **The Peak Pass does not grant use of any South Mountain YMCA Camps buildings or facilities** in the developed areas of the camp property.
18. Only South Mountain YMCA Camps' campers and guests, Peak Pass holders, and staff are permitted to access South Mountain YMCA Camps' land. All trespassers will be prosecuted.
19. **Report trail problems or concerns.** At each Trailhead Lot, there will be a comment box and kiosk. Please note your concerns and share them in the box provided, or simply call the office at 610-670-2267.
20. **Violations of the South Mountain YMCA Rules and Regulations will result in the revocation of your Peak Pass.**

*Developments and additions will continue throughout the 2023-2024 season with additional parking lots, kiosk construction and installation, and trash receptacle placement.



SECTION 3: TRAIL USE & SAFETY

Appropriate Trail Use

- Hiking
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Mountain biking
- Picnicking
- Wildlife observation
- Photography
- ***All other uses of our grounds and trail are prohibited***

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

- South Mountain YMCA Camps' trails are open to skiing and snowshoeing from December through March, conditions permitting.
- Current snow conditions are available by calling the Camp office at (610) 670-2267, Monday—Friday, 9am—5pm.
- Peak Pass holders have access to use the cross-country ski trails.
- Trail users must bring their own equipment. All ungroomed trails are designated as backcountry trails. Most trails are not packed or patrolled. Signing in is not required. Ski or snowshoe at your own risk.
- **Please carry a phone.** There is service on most of the property. In an emergency, call the Camp Office at 610-670-2267 or emergency services (911).

Safety at the South Mountain YMCA Camps

- Only utilize trails during daylight hours.
- **We recommend you never hike, ride, ski, or snowshoe alone.** Participants are responsible for notifying a family member, friend, or other responsible person of their whereabouts when at the South Mountain YMCA Camps. When using your Peak Pass, let your contact person know your intended activity and route, and when you plan to return.
- **Dress for the activity and the weather.** In colder months, wear layers.
- **Stay hydrated.** Carry a water bottle on hikes and rides.
- **When biking, riders are required to wear a helmet.**
- **Carry a phone.** There is service on most of the property. In an emergency, call the Camp Office at 610-670-2267 or emergency services (911).

Guest Policy

- Peak Pass holders may bring one guest per day visit for an additional activity fee of \$5.00, payable at the Camp Office upon checking in. The Camp Office is open Monday—Friday, 9am—5pm, or by appointment.
- Your guest will be subjected to a background check at that time.
- Your guest will be given a printed badge (sticker) to wear for the day. It must be visible on their person while they use the trails.
- Peak Pass holders are responsible for the conduct of their guest, and the guest must remain in sight of the registered Peak Pass holder at all times.

Restroom Availability

At this time, the only full-service restroom available to Peak Pass holders is in the Camp Office. There is also a portable restroom at Cushion Peak. Please plan your trip accordingly.

SECTION 4: MISCELLANEOUS

Parking in 2023-2024

We are intending to add a Trailhead Parking lot on the “Cushion Peak” side of our property this year. Peak Pass holders will be informed via email when it is open. As of September 2023, the only parking lot available for Peak Pass holders will be the gravel lot next to the Climbing Tower (across from the playground and Bynden Wood Lodge area). Stay tuned for updates.

Communicating in 2023-2024

We will email Peak Pass holders with periodically throughout the year with updates and events from Camp. These updates could include the opening of new trails, or the addition of parking lots and map kiosks. Feel free to email us at Camp at ycamps@smymca.org or give us a call at 610-670-2267.

Peak Pass Cancellation

- You may cancel your Peak Pass at any time. However, once the application is processed and your fee is paid, there will be no refund.
- The South Mountain YMCA Camps may choose to revoke your Peak Pass without refund for a variety of reasons. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - ⇒ Not displaying your photo membership badge while hiking on property.
 - ⇒ Parking your vehicle in non-approved lots, spaces, fields, etc.
 - ⇒ Accessing the property outside of designated days and times.
 - ⇒ Hiking with your dog “off-leash.”
 - ⇒ Giving your membership badge and parking permit to another person.
 - ⇒ Bringing guests on site without first presenting them to the office for background checks.



SECTION 5: LEAVE NO TRACE

Please Consider the LEAVE NO TRACE seven principles©
For more information visit: www.Int.org/learn/7-principles

Plan ahead and prepare
Travel on durable surfaces
Dispose of waste properly
Leave what you find
Minimize campfire impacts*
Respect wildlife
Be considerate of others

**Campfires are prohibited outside of staff-led programs.*



The Mission of the South Mountain YMCA is to provide a camping experience, educational and other programs that build personal leadership, character and life skills while developing caring, honesty, respect and responsibility in young people, families and communities.

