



CAVE OF THE MOUNDS®

National Natural Landmark

Photography Permit Policy

Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark is a popular destination for photographers because of the beautifully manicured grounds and gardens. Photography is allowed at no additional charge for personal, noncommercial use while visiting the property or touring Cave of the Mounds attraction. A permit is required for posed/formal and commercial photography for above ground use only. Private cave rental is available for those wishing to take posed or commercial photographs underground in the cave environment.

Posed photography Policy – For Photographers taking posed/formal photos (e.g., engagement, wedding, senior year, family)

DAILY one-time use above ground permit - \$30. Photographers must have a permit for each individual photo session or shoot with each client. Mini shoots are considered multiple sessions and require an annual photography permit.

ANNUAL above ground photography permit - \$300 per year. The annual permit allows multiple sessions with different clients in a day or on multiple occasions for one year starting from the permit purchase date.

- Dates and times of your photography shoot(s) must be booked in advance with Cave of the Mounds management. We are open 9-5 daily; after-hours appointments are subject to approval in advance.
- Photographers and clients *must* stay on trails or lawn areas at all times. No walking into garden beds, climbing rock walls, climbing trees, or going off trail.
- There is no access to buildings that are not open and available to the general public. If approved to photograph after hours, please plan accordingly as restrooms will be closed.
- You may not use props that are otherwise not allowed at Cave of the Mounds—for example, no pets in the gardens. Allowable props may only be placed on lawns and trails—not in garden beds or off trail. Props may not be left unattended.
- Please do not trample, pick, or collect flowers, leaves, branches or rocks anywhere on the grounds or in the gardens.
- All photographers and clients must follow guest etiquette. Guests visiting the property for the purpose of touring the Cave of the Mounds attraction are free to use any area at any time. Areas cannot be reserved, and photography does not take priority over other guest activities.
- Questions can be directed to any of our Cave of the Mounds lead team members.
- Cave of the Mounds reserves the right to deny permits for certain dates when photography sessions could interfere with scheduled events.

Failure to adhere to the photography permit policy may result in the forfeiture of the permit fee and loss of photography privileges at Cave of the Mounds.

Commercial photography

Stock and commercial photography requires advance arrangements. Projects involving commercial or stock photography (such as photos taken for resale or for use in publications, catalog shoots, commercials, professional videos, and the like) should contact Jan Okeson, (608) 437-3038 x104 at Cave of the Mounds to review commercial use policies and location agreements.