

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY'S  
NEW NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REDUCED RATE INFORMATION

Requests for a picnic or special use permit made by a school or bona fide nonprofit organization, residing in the County of Cook, may receive a reduction in fees by 50%. A bona fide nonprofit organization is one which is engaged in charitable, educational, civic, youth, and faith-based activities. For purposes of qualifying for the Nonprofit Organization Reduced Rate, an applicant must submit proof of the following:

1. Exemption under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or
2. Current registration with the Illinois Attorney General as a charitable organization.
3. The location of the official headquarters or administrative office of the organization submitting the request for said permits is located in the County of Cook and is the same as that which is on file with the Illinois Attorney General, or was submitted for exemption under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, except in the case of local chapters of national organization, wherein the local chapter maintains a Cook County office and submits proof of affiliation with the national organization.
4. If the applicant is a school located within Cook County, no additional documentation or proof of nonprofit status shall be required other than a letter signed by an official of the school stating that the activity/event is officially sanctioned under and supervised by employee(s) of the school.
5. Notwithstanding any other published deadlines, all applications for Reduced Rate Picnic or Special Use Permits must be received by the Recreation Department no less than 45 days prior to the date of the Event. All applications for Reduced Rate Permits must be submitted in person.
6. Vending of Food or Merchandise is not allowed under the Reduced Rate Special Use Permit, except for charitable organizations with net assets of \$10,000 or less who apply for the vending fee permit waiver. Qualification for the vending fee permit waiver requires registration with the Illinois Attorney General's office as a charitable organization, and submission of a balance statement for the previous year to verify its assets at the time of application for a permit.