First Day Hike Packing Activity Sheet, Jan. 1, 2027

The National Park Service Ten Essentials, plus what to check on your state's page

Friday

January 1, 2027

First Day Hikes

Facts

- Minnesota says its First Day Hikes are free but you need a vehicle permit to enter the park.
- Virginia says nearly all its parks will be free, with two exceptions.
- Texas invites you to spend the first day of 2027 in a Texas State Park.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TEN ESSENTIALS

- [ ] Navigation: map, compass and GPS
- [ ] Sun protection: sunglasses, sunscreen and hat
- [ ] Extra clothing: jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell and layers
- [ ] Illumination: flashlight and headlamp
- [ ] First-aid supplies
- [ ] Fire: matches or lighter and fire starters
- [ ] Repair kit and tools: duct tape, knife, multi-tool
- [ ] Nutrition: extra food
- [ ] Hydration: water and water treatment supplies
- [ ] Emergency shelter: tent, space blanket, tarp or bivy

BEFORE YOU GO

- [ ] Find your hike on your state park system's page and note the start time
- [ ] Check the page for parking or entrance fees
- [ ] Minnesota: bring a vehicle permit (hikes are free, park entry needs one)

Hike, start time and who is coming

Source: National Park Service, Ten Essentials; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, First Day Hike; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.