

How to submit an application for a Research Permit in Acadia

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Do I need a research permit?

If you are planning to conduct research in Acadia you must apply for a research permit.

Every year, around 80 research permits are issued in Acadia. It is National Park Service policy to guarantee that management of park sites is enhanced by the highest quality scientific information.

Understanding our natural and cultural resources is vital to improving park management and expanding scientific knowledge. Research will generally be allowed as long as it can be conducted safely and in a manner that does not threaten or diminish the resources of or visitor experiences in Acadia.

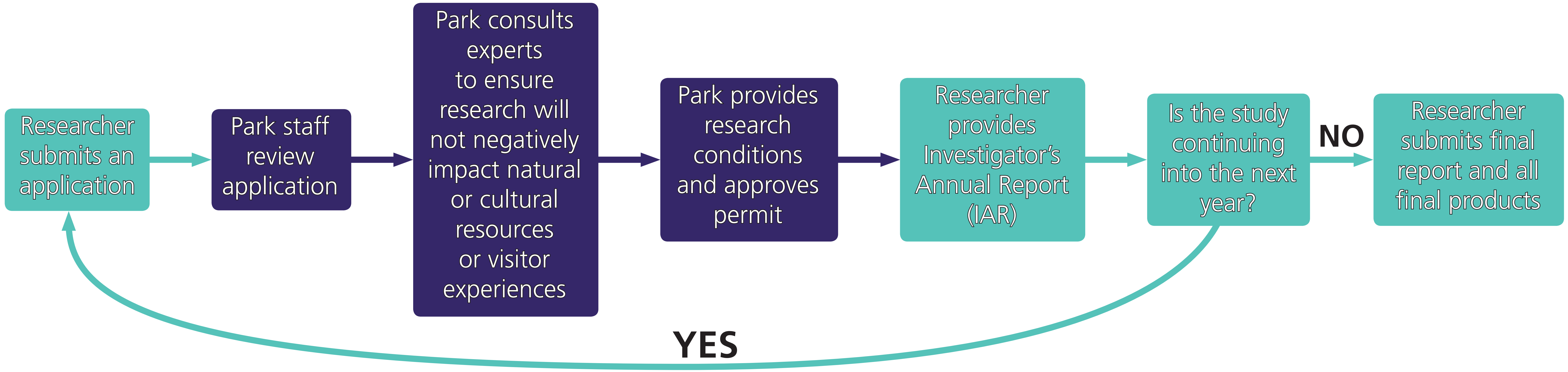
How do I apply?

1. Review information here:
www.nps.gov/acad/learn/nature/permits.htm
2. Go to the online Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS) at:
irma.nps.gov/rprs

Key points to include in your permit application

- Purpose of study
- Methods, dates of fieldwork and location
- Description of how study may impact natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences
- Data management plan
- Safety plan
- What specimens you’ll be collecting, if any

Permit process



Acadia’s permit policies

Does your research involve handling fish, migratory birds, or other regulated species?

- Permits may be required from:
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 - Maine Department of Marine Resources
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Does your research involve vertebrate animals? Requires review by the NPS Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), even if you already have approval from another IACUC. nature.nps.gov/biology/iacuc/index.cfm

Collecting Specimens Policies

- No specimens (biological or physical) may be collected unless specifically authorized on your research permit.
- All specimens collect in Acadia are property of the NPS, as per federal regulations. After research is complete, the specimens collected must be given to Acadia and be accessioned and cataloged.
- You are responsible for cataloging your specimens with the required information.

When to apply

All research permit applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to planned field activities. Some permits may require a longer review; submitting is advised 45–60 days in advance.

What reports are required and where do they go?

Investigator’s Annual Reports (IARs)
Included brief summaries of the status and findings of projects. IARs are available online.

Final Reports
Summarize the purpose, methods, findings, and implications of the studies. These reports are available to the public online.

Data
We ask researchers to archive data in an appropriate permanent online repository (such as DataONE) and share it with the NPS. The data are permanently archived in park records.

GIS Data
Information about the location of the study are used to track research locations in the park to ensure that researchers do not interfere with other research or park activities.

Specimens
All biological and physical specimens and associated data are kept in the William Otis Sawtelle Collections at Park Headquarters.

For more information

www.nps.gov/acad/learn/nature/permits.htm

Go to the Help Section on RPRS

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