

## **BEACH BONFIRE DISCUSSION**

The following pages include bonfire information disseminated to the public.

Bonfire Application (In Person)

Bonfire Application (Online)

Bonfire Guidelines Brochure (Displayed at Town Hall)



## Town of Dewey Beach Beach Bonfire Permit

Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee:** \$50 Non-Property Owners  
\$30 Dewey Beach Property Owners

**Payments Accepted:** Cash or Credit Card

### Rules & Regulations

- Fires may be set up any time after 5:30pm and should be cleaned up by 11:00pm.
- If you're setting up the fire yourself, you must dig a pit at least 18" down into the sand to house the bonfire to prevent scorching of the surface sand. Further explanation of building the fire can be found in the informational brochure available at Town Hall.
- Fires should be placed at least 25' away from the dune crossing.
- No live bands or DJs are permitted.
- No alcohol is permitted on the beach from May 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>. Glass containers are prohibited year-round.
- Smoking and Vaping are prohibited on the beach.
- Do not burn cardboard, household garbage, pallets, treated wood, painted wood, or wood with nails.
- Absolutely no accelerants such as lighter fluid or gasoline. These are dangerous and poison the sand.
- Beach fires are limited to 24 persons in attendance.
- Follow all beach rules posted at the dune entrances.
- Portable toilets and/or porta potties may not be set up on the beach unless approved by the Town.
- This permit must be in the possession of the responsible party present at the fire.
- Clean up all garbage prior to leaving the beach.
- The Town of Dewey Beach reserves the right to cancel bonfires due to high winds and/or weather conditions.

### Beach Fire Clean Up

Bring a small bucket and shovel with you. Burn the fire down as far as possible, and douse with water. Scoop up all debris from the sand and fill in the pit. Do not bury hot coals or firewood – they will continue to burn under the sand and pose a danger to fellow beachgoers. Take all debris off the beach with you to dispose of at your property or rental. Do not dispose of coals or wood in beach trash cans, in the ocean, or on the dunes. Town staff will sweep the beach each morning to ensure beach fire locations are clean. Any individual that does not properly dispose of bonfire residue is subject to a civil violation and a fine of \$150.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to cancel a bonfire prior to the scheduled bonfire date to receive a refund or to select another available date; you MUST inform staff member in person, by phone, or by leaving a voicemail at (302)227-6363 if no staff members are available.**

Fire Location		Date of Fire	
Responsible Party <i>(If Dewey Beach property owner, list owner name and Dewey Beach property)</i>			
Billing Address	City	State	Zip
Phone Number		Email	
Signature			
Approved By <i>(Town Staff Member)</i>			
Payment Method	Amount	Date	

Whether you are looking to celebrate a special occasion, host a get-together with friends, or enjoy a family-friendly activity after the sun goes down in Dewey, [View Your Booking Requests](#) of our most popular activities!

We book one bonfire per street, per evening. Choose which street entrance you'd like to reserve and the date. If your street is already taken, don't worry! There is often an alternative street nearby. Each beach entrance is easily accessible for our visitors. [Click here](#) to view a map of Dewey Beach.

## BEACH BONFIRE FAQ

### Can I host a bonfire anytime in Dewey Beach?

Yes! We provide bonfire permits year round. It is rare that we book every street in one evening, except for summer holidays. If you'd like to host a bonfire on Memorial Day, 4th of July, or Labor Day, we recommend that you book early.

### How much is a bonfire permit?

Bonfire permits purchased online are \$50. Dewey Beach property owners may still purchase bonfire permits in person at Town Hall for the discounted price of \$30.

### What are the guidelines for setting up my bonfire?

Be sure to set up away from the dune fencing, trash receptacles, and beach shacks. Dig a small pit for your firewood. Do not burn pallets, garbage, treated or painted wood. Never use lighter fluid or accelerant. This poisons the sand and poses a danger to wildlife and other beachgoers. Camping grills and other portable grills are not permitted.

### What are the guidelines for cleaning up my bonfire?

We recommend bringing a bucket and shovel with you. Burn firewood down as much as possible and douse with water. Scoop all remnants of the fire out of the sand and fill in the pit. Take all debris off the beach with you to be disposed of at your home or rental. Do not dispose of the debris in the ocean, on the dunes, or in any public trashcan. Never bury smoldering coals or firewood - they will continue to burn for hours and pose a severe risk to wildlife and beachgoers. Clean up all trash from your bonfire site and dispose properly. Town staff will sweep the beach each morning. If it is found that your bonfire site was not properly cleaned up, you are subject to a \$150 fine.

### Where can I purchase firewood?

There are many grocery stores on Coastal Highway just north of Dewey Beach where small bundles of wood can be purchased.

### Can I hire someone to handle the setup and breakdown of my fire?

Yes. Vendors are available to set up and breakdown your beach fire for you, as well as provide other amenities such as chairs, tables, and beach games. Contact vendors directly for pricing and availability. Don't forget, you can always join us for free at the community bonfires on Dagsworthy Avenue, every Wednesday evening during the summer season.

Dave Lynam (302) 245-3832

Dewey Beach Surf Shop

### What if I need to reschedule or cancel a bonfire?

We understand that plans can change and bonfires are weather dependent. If you need to reschedule or cancel, please call Town Hall before your scheduled bonfire. We will be happy to assist you with refunding or rescheduling your bonfire.

#### Four Steps to Book This Facility:

**Step 1: Login or Create Account**

Step 2: Select a Facility

Step 3: Request Booking

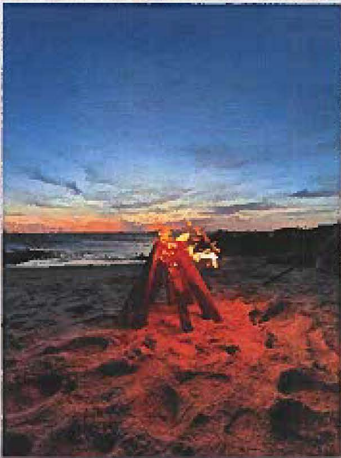
Step 4: Review and Send

# Setup

- You are responsible for providing your own firewood for burning. All nearby grocery stores will have bundles of wood for purchase.
- Do not burn pallets, treated or painted wood, wood with nails, trash, cardboard, or other household waste.
- Do not use accelerants, such as lighter fluid or gasoline. These are dangerous and poison the sand for wildlife and other beachgoers.
- Choose a spot away from the dune fencing, at least 25' away from the dune crossing. Dig a small pit in the sand to place wood. Enjoy your bonfire!

## Hire a Pro

Looking to enjoy your fire without the work? You may opt to hire an outside vendor to ensure your bonfire is set up and cleaned up properly. Many of these vendors offer add-on services such as chair rental. Multiple vendors are licensed to provide this service in Dewey Beach. Our recommended vendor is Lynam's Beach Concessions. Contact them by text at (302)245-3832.



## Delaware's Favorite Playground



**Dewey Beach Town Hall**  
**105 Rodney Ave**  
**Dewey Beach, DE 19971**  
**(302) 227-6363**  
**[townofdeweybeach.gov](http://townofdeweybeach.gov)**



## Beach Bonfire Guidelines



**Town of Dewey Beach**

## Basics

Did you know the first Mayor of Dewey Beach was sworn in at a beach bonfire in 1981? We're glad that you're ready to enjoy one of Dewey's favorite pastimes!

### Guidelines

- You must first obtain a permit from Town Hall or online at [townofdeweybeach.gov](http://townofdeweybeach.gov) prior to having a fire on the beach.
- We book a maximum of one fire per street, per evening.
- The cost to book a bonfire is \$50. Dewey Beach property owners may obtain a bonfire permit for a discounted rate of \$30 in-person at Town Hall.
- Bonfires may be set up any time after 5:30pm, and should be cleaned up by 11:00pm.
- Fires are limited to 24 persons in attendance.
- The Town may cancel bonfires due to weather conditions. If your bonfire is cancelled, you will be notified by Town Hall to reschedule or refund the permit.
- Follow all other beach rules as outlined on our website and the Information Guide.



## Bay Beach Fires

You may obtain a permit to hold a bonfire on the Bay Beach at Van Dyke Avenue behind the Hyatt Hotel. As this location is in close proximity to housing and other permanent structures, special rules apply.

All fires on the Bay Beach must be set up by our recommended vendor, Lynam's Beach Concessions. It is your responsibility to contact this vendor and arrange the service. Please note that there will be an additional fee for this setup that will be charged by the vendor. Contact Lynam's Beach Concessions by text at (302)245-3832 for booking.

## Clean Up

- Burn wood down as far as possible to make clean up easier.
- Thoroughly douse remains of the fire. We recommend bringing a small bucket with you - there is plenty of ocean water at your disposal!
- Scoop up any leftover debris and take it off the beach to dispose of at your home/rental. All residue from the fire, including burned wood and ash, must be completely removed from the beach and disposed of in a proper trash receptacle.

### Important

- Never bury any residue from the fire. Hot wood and ash continues to burn under the sand and is a hazard.
- Never dispose of wood in the ocean, bay, on the dunes, or any public trash receptacle.
- Dewey Beach town staff will do a check of the beach early each morning. If your fire location was not cleaned up according to the guidelines, you shall be subject to a civil violation with a fine of up to \$150.

