

Seeley Lake Rural Fire District

Smokey Bear Balloon Use Agreement

The user of the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District's (SLRFD) Smokey Bear Balloon agrees to the following terms:

1. User will make arrangements in advance for the pick-up and the return of the balloon to the Seeley Lake Fire Department.
2. User will return the balloon to the SLRFD clean and undamaged.
3. User is liable for any damage caused during use.
4. User is responsible for accidents or injuries resulting from use.

Date of Pickup _____ Date of Return _____

Organization Requesting the Smokey Bear Balloon

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Responsible Party: _____

Days balloon will be used: _____

I agree to the terms set forth above for the use of the SLRFD Smokey Balloon and agree to hold harmless the Officers and members of the SLRFD for any damage or injuries associated with the use of the balloon. I've also read the attached rules for the use and display of the Smokey Bear Balloon.

Signature _____

Date _____

Costume

Official Smokey Bear costumes must be ordered from authorized manufacturers. The authorized Smokey Bear costume manufacturers do not require a 'license,' but do have a letter of authorization from the Forest Service. The Forest Service's Office of Inspector General has determined that the costume manufacturers can only sell costumes to federal agencies, state forestry agencies, and only those other organizations specifically authorized by the Forest Service or State Foresters. Therefore, the costume manufacturers are not required to obtain a license. These costume manufacturers are also authorized to refurbish Smokey Bear costumes. The price of the costumes should be obtained from the respective authorized manufacturers.

Effective uses of the Smokey Bear costumes are for parades and for appearances at schools, fairs, youth-group meetings, conservation activities, television appearances, sporting events, civic and community events, trade and trademark shows, and similar functions where a fire prevention message can be conveyed.

Examples of inappropriate uses are: Christmas parties, summer picnics, Halloween parties, Job Fairs, the Combined Federal Campaign, or any situation that might compromise Smokey's integrity or give the appearance of impropriety.

Acquisition and Use

Only US Forest Service and State Forestry agencies may purchase costumes without prior approval. On a case-by-case basis the USFS Director, Fire & Aviation Management, through the Regional/Area Coordinators, approves costume ownership by other Federal agencies. Local fire departments and other fire protection organizations may be granted permission to purchase a costume after State Forester approval. Both approvals require certification that the costume will be used only for wildfire prevention purposes. Authorization shall be in the form of a Cooperative Interagency Agreement and shall cover a period of not more than five years.

Individuals who wear and use the costume must agree to:

1. Use the costume only to further public information, education, and awareness of the prevention of wildfires.
2. NOT TO SPEAK during appearances. Conversations or explanations should be carried out by the accompanying official (escort).
3. Never appear in less than full costume.
4. Remain anonymous at every appearance and in any publicity connected with an appearance. This includes being photographed without the head.
5. Use only costumes that are clean, complete, and in good condition.
6. Keep costume out-of-sight before and after use.
7. Appear dignified and friendly. Avoid clowning and horseplay.

8. Always be accompanied by an appropriately uniformed escort in public appearances, except where not practical, such as on a parade float where space is limited.
9. Do not use alcohol or illicit drugs prior to and during the Smokey Bear appearance. This condition applies to uniformed escorts as well.

Appearances

1. The person wearing the costume must exhibit appropriate animation to be effective. Express sincerity and interest in the appearance by moving paws, head, and legs.
2. There shall be at least one uniformed escort to accompany the Bear. The escort shall guide the Bear at the elbow.
3. After donning the costume, the escort shall inspect the suit. Check for the following:
 - Is the drawstring tucked in?
 - Is the zipper out of sight?
 - Are the buttons fastened?
 - Is the belt firmly fastened to the pants?
 - Are the pant cuffs neat?
 - Is the hat crown up?
 - Is the head straight on the shoulders?
 - Is the fur brushed generously?
4. A private dressing room is necessary for putting on and taking off the costume.
5. The costumed bear should not force itself on anyone. Do not walk rapidly toward small children.
6. A round-point shovel is part of the Smokey Bear image. It shall be used for appearances, when appropriate.
7. The costume becomes hot to the wearer after a very short period. Success has been noted with the use of compartmentalized 'ice vests' and the addition of a battery-operated fan in the hat. Several cooling options are available from the costume manufacturers. Limit appearances to 15-20 minute segments to minimize personal discomfort.
8. After each appearance, check the costume for needed repairs or cleaning. Note this on the outside of the storage box for immediate follow-up by the owner/manager of the costume.

Care and Maintenance

The owner/manager of the costume shall assure that:

1. The Smokey costume is not used unless it is clean, complete, and in good repair. Ideally, the costume should be dry-cleaned. Laundering is permitted according to manufacturer's specifications. If the suit is not cleaned after several hours of use it will begin to smell and cause deterioration that will shorten the life expectancy.
2. The costume is inspected after each use and any required maintenance is performed.

3. The costume is not placed into the costume box wet. Thoroughly air-dry the suit first.
4. The manufacturer's recommendations for proper placement of the components into the storage box are followed.
5. Costumes can be returned to their respective manufacturers for maintenance, refurbishment, and repair. Contact the manufacturer for price quotations.

Security and Disposal

Protect the Smokey Bear costume from theft or vandalism to eliminate unauthorized use, which may result in bad publicity and immeasurable harm to the integrity of Smokey as a symbol of wildfire prevention.

1. Keep the Smokey Bear costume under lock-and-key when it is not in use.
2. Use a sign-in/sign-out system to control costume use.
3. Mark the costume box to say, "Warning: Unauthorized use or possession of this costume is not permitted."
4. Immediately report thefts of Smokey Bear costumes to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and request prompt action to assure recovery.
5. When it is determined by the owner/manager that the costume is no longer fit to wear and must be disposed of, the suit shall be rendered unrecognizable as a Smokey Bear costume by cutting, tearing, and/or burning all components.

Trademark Protection

The respected and recognized name of Smokey Bear and his well-known message, as well as the property rights in the trademark and the service mark are valued. There is an important need to distinguish Smokey Bear, his message, information and education materials, advertising, and commercially licensed products from those of other symbols; and to prevent their improper use. To accomplish this requires vigorous protection. The benefit to this position is that integrity is maintained, and is reflected back to the sponsoring organizations.

