

Wakulla Springs State Park Emerald Sink Dive Interim Policies

All dives must comply with the following interim policies established for Emerald Sink, until the Department adopts rules in accordance with chapter 120, Florida Statutes. Failure to comply with these policies will result in the diver being prohibited from future dives in Emerald Sink.

Reservation Procedure:

1. A reservation request form shall be sent by fax at least 5 days prior to your dive date to Wakulla Springs State Park, Attn: Ron Weiss or Sandy Cook at (850) 561-7282. The request must be approved by the Park Manager or her designee before your dive. The approval is to be visibly displayed on the vehicle dashboard of the team leader or other team member if the leader has no vehicle.
2. All persons shall possess a valid Family or Individual Florida State Park Entrance Permit or pay a \$10 Daily Diving Fee. Permits can be purchased at the Park.

The following dive requirements/restrictions shall apply:

1. ****All divers must receive prior dive authorization from the Emerald Sink Diver Qualification Review Panel.** Divers must provide a copy of any documentation of their dive qualifications or experience requested by the Review Panel.
2. No training dives are permitted.
3. The depths of the Emerald Sink system approaches 200 feet and should be considered a deep dive. Due to the depths all divers must be Trimix certified.
4. A minimum of two divers are required on the dive (no solo dives).
5. Dive teams shall consist of a minimum of two divers and a maximum of four divers
6. No more than two dive teams shall be in the water at the same time.
7. No DPV (scooters) are permitted.
8. Entry and exit into Emerald Sink shall be via the steps and landing area built for that purpose.
9. All plants, animals, artifacts, minerals, and other wildlife or materials are protected and may not be harmed or removed from the Sink. No collections are permitted without first obtaining a Collections/Research Permit from Park Management.
10. Cheryl Sink and Split Sink are for emergency exits only. Divers are not permitted to enter or exit (except for emergencies) the system at these or other locations or to be on the slopes of the sinkholes.
11. When conditions are unfavorable for diving (such as dark water) it will be the divers' responsibility to cancel or abort the dive.
12. Divers assume all responsibilities for their safety including equipment and conditions of the cave system and shall sign a release form releasing the Department and the Emerald Sink Diver Qualification Review Panel from any liability. The Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation & Parks does not endorse diving and does not assume any liability with the activity. Divers will be required to acknowledge in the release that cave diving in this Sink may result in permanent injury or death and they accept this responsibility.

Divers shall adhere to the following check-in procedures:

1. At least one member of the team must check in at the Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Station where all required Diver Certification Cards must be turned in and retained until the dive is complete.
2. The gate key for Emerald Sink will be picked up from the Ranger Station at check in.
3. Divers shall lock the entrance gate after entering and exiting the site.
4. Vehicles must be parked in designated areas.
5. Divers must turn in the gate key and pick up their certification cards immediately after their dive is completed. Divers shall report any unusual incidents or injuries at that time to the Park. Dives cannot extend beyond the time designated on the Permit and must check out before the Ranger Station closes.
6. Emerald Sink is designated as Carry In – Carry Out Trash Free site; all divers shall comply.

Wakulla Springs State Park
 Dive Reservation Request Form
 To dive in Emerald Sink
 Fax # (850) 561-7282
 Phone (850) 224-5950

Date of dive requested _____ Return Fax # _____

	Name Printed	Signature		State Park Permit type & #
1.	_____	_____		(fam) (ind) _____
2.	_____	_____		(fam) (ind) _____
3.	_____	_____		(fam) (ind) _____
4.	_____	_____		(fam) (ind) _____

By signing my name above, I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age and I have read and I understand the statements in this document and the Emerald Sink Cave Diver Qualification Procedure. I fully understand that the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks DOES NOT:

- a) Endorse diving as a recreational activity.
- b) Accept any responsibility for my safety.
- c) Assume any responsibility for the equipment I do or should possess or its correct operation.
- d) Accept any responsibility for diving conditions or other hazardous conditions that I may encounter at any given time.

I acknowledge and agree to abide by the requirements in this document and the Emerald Sink Cave Diver Qualification Procedure. I know that cave diving is inherently dangerous and that diving in Emerald Sink may be even more dangerous and I assume all liability for my injury or death from participating in this activity. I will not hold the Department of Environmental Protection or any of its employees or any member or volunteer of the Emerald Sink Diver Qualification Review Panel liable in any way for any personal injury or death that might occur as a result of this diving activity.

I have read this policy, fully understand it, and will abide by the interim policies below.

Dive Start Time _____ Dive End Time _____

Emergency contact information

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone Number _____

 Approved by Park Manager or Designee

 Date