

# AMHERST COLLEGE

## KEEFE CAMPUS CENTER FIRE PIT

November 2019

In accordance with the requirements of the Amherst Fire Department and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Amherst College has developed the following protocols for use of the fire pit, located west of Keefe Campus Center.

### Fire Pit Requirements

- The fire pit can be used by faculty, staff and students, provided permission has been granted in advance from the Office of Student Activities.
  - Registration is required to ensure the fire pit will be available for your event.
    - Register your fire pit activity at least **1 week prior** to the event
- Use of the fire pit is also contingent upon weather conditions. Dry and/or windy conditions can result in the cancellation of the event, as required by the Amherst Fire Department.
  - As with all other exterior fire related events on campus, the event coordinator or designee must contact the Amherst College Police Department (413) 542-2291 before starting the fire to;
    - a. make them aware that the fire pit will be in use, and
    - b. to allow them to verify weather conditions (at the time) are appropriate for exterior fires.
      - The police department has the authority to cancel the use of the fire pit for reasons of fire safety
- The fire pit is strictly for the burning of wood, and shall not be used with charcoal, gas or other fuel source.
  - Seasoned wood must be used for the fire. The wood can be obtained from beneath the Hills Parking Lot Barn or from a local vendor who sells bundles of wood.
    - Wood from other sources, such as construction debris or wood from the grounds shall not be used for the fire pit.
  - It shall be the responsibility of the event coordinator or designee to acquire the seasoned wood, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Office of Student Activities
  - The only materials that can be used for starting the fire in the pit are; black and white newsprint, kindling wood from the Facilities department and “seasoned” fire wood, referenced above.
    - Lighter fluid and other such combustible liquids shall not be used to start the fire
- This fire pit shall be used for camp fire type settings, and may not be used for the purpose of cooking.
  - **Exception** – Roasting of marshmallows, and the making of S’mores.
- Can be used between the hours of 9am and 2am.
  - Provided no additional wood is added to the fire after 12:00 (midnight) in order to allow the majority of the wood to be consumed, prior to the departure of the event coordinator (or designee).
    - The Amherst College Police Department has the authority to extinguish the fire after 2am
- The event coordinator will be responsible for the health, safety and well-being of the attendees for the duration of the fire, and shall report any known or potential concerns to the Amherst College Police Department.
  - Alcohol shall not be served or consumed at the fire pit for reasons of health and safety
- The event coordinator or designee must remain at the fire until the “logs” have been consumed.
  - Do not extinguish the fire, except for emergencies. Allow the fire to burn itself out.
    - Do not clean out / empty the fire pit. This is the responsibility of the Grounds Department for reasons of fire safety.

Non-compliance with this policy may result in the loss of permission to use the fire pit in the future, as its use is contingent upon approval from the Amherst Fire Department.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns with regard to the above, contact the Office of Student Activities or Environmental Health and Safety at [ehs@amherst.edu](mailto:ehs@amherst.edu)

**EMERGENCY – (413) 542-2111**