Creating a backpacking reservation at Laurel Ridge State Park on the PA State Parks website:

Go to PA State Parks website at  www.visitPAparks.com

From the home page click on the reservations icon:

- Now you are on the Reserve America website, the company that handles reservations for Pennsylvania State Parks. Note: the image rotates and may not always appear as the one shown below.
- If you already have an account with Reserve America then proceed to the instructions below. If you do not have an account with Reserve America then you may want to create an account, or just continue with the instruction below, but know that when you try to make the reservation you will have to stop and make an account at that time. It is not difficult to make an account.
- In the Reserve a Spot fields Enter LAUREL RIDGE STATE PARK in the Location box
- In the Interested In dropdown, select PERMITS & WILDERNESS
- Select SEARCH
On the next screen, Laurel Ridge State Park appears as the first option for reservations. Select the **CHECK AVAILABILITY** button.
Select **BACKPACK CAMPING PERMIT** from the Find Permits dropdown box.
From here you can select your ZONE (Shelter area) and Entrance Type (tent or shelter), dates of your stay, group size and number of nights you plan to be on the trail:

**ZONE:** Select your Shelter Area here. From South to North they are:

- **Ohiopyle Shelter Area** - Please call the LAUREL RIDGE office at 724-455-3744 once you receive your permit number to obtain a LHHT PARKING PASS for the Ohiopyle Trailhead. The King Rd trailhead is no longer open so you must park in the Ferncliff parking lot, located at 100 FERNCLIFF ROAD, OHIOPYLE, PA 15470
- **Rt. 653 Shelter Area**
- **Grindle Ridge Shelter Area** – No trailhead at this shelter area
- **Rt. 31 Shelter Area**
- **Turnpike Shelter Area** – No trailhead at this shelter area
- **Rt. 30 Shelter Area**
- **Rt. 271 Shelter Area**
- **Rt. 56 Shelter Area**

**ENTRANCE TYPE:** Select Shelter or Tent.

**ENTRANCE:** This is where you select the specific areas that you want to stay each night. Start with your first shelter area.

**START DATE of STAY:** The date of the first night you plan to stay in a shelter area.

**GROUP SIZE:** Shelters sleep up to 5 people. If your group is larger than 5 you may reserve up to but no more than 3 shelters in one area per night. Tent spaces can accommodate up to 25 people.

**LENGTH OF STAY:** How many nights you plan to stay on the trail

Select SEARCH
WARNING!!!! Are you an experienced backpacker or camper? Please read and click below if you are.

WARNING!

Backpack Camping is available in Pennsylvania at Laurel Ridge, Moraine, Oil Creek, and Raccoon Creek State Parks. These locations have developed designated areas to hike and camp along the trail. There are no modern facilities on these trails. Visitors will need to carry their gear with them. If unsure, and need specific information on the hiking or amenities, or have additional questions, please call the appropriate park prior to making reservations.

River Camping is provided in Pennsylvania at Cook Forest/Clear Creek State Park Complex and is developed for visitors to camp at designated campsites along the Clarion River. Access to these sites is by water only and visitors are required to carry all gear with them in the kayak/canoe.

I am an experienced backpacker or river camper!

Canoe/Kayak Camping along the Wild and Scenic Clarion River is available at Cook Forest State Park. Two sites are available up river with access to nearby restrooms and shower houses at Clear Creek State Park. This area is located on river left just downstream of the main camping area at Clear Creek State Park. Three additional sites are on river right approximately two miles downstream of Cooksburg. This area is designated primitive with no modern facilities. Camping on state lands in the Clarion Wild and Scenic River corridor is only permitted on designated campsites. For more information please call Cook Forest State Park at 814-744-8407.

Laurel Ridge State Park is home to the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail. It is a linear trail that extends from Ohiopyle State Park in the south to near Johnstown in the north. There are eight overnight areas shelter areas located approximately every 6-10 miles along the trail. For detailed trail information, water availability and directions to trailhead parking areas, contact the park at 724-455-3744.
This screen shows you what is available and what is not. If you are not logged in at this point you will need to do so before you continue. You can build your reservation from here.
Once you select the shelter/tent space that you want, select the Add to Itinerary button. A file tab will pop up at the bottom of your screen. When you have all of your shelters/tent spaces selected you can Book the reservation.
PLEASE NOTE – on the Permit Order Details Page:

- Double check the dates of your stay along with the reserved shelter areas.
- Vehicle & Parking information is REQUIRED. Please give a description of the vehicle, plate number if available and where you plan to park each vehicle.
- Direction of Travel is REQUIRED. Please note – the trail runs NORTH & SOUTH, not east or west. You will need to select NORTH OR SOUTH, depending on your itinerary.
- Emergency Contact is REQUIRED. Please name someone that will NOT be on the trip with you.

THE LHHT RUNS NORTH & SOUTH. PLEASE SELECT NORTH OR SOUTH, DEPENDING ON YOUR ITINERARY.
Check the box that you have read and understood the alerts and important information on the page. Continue to Shopping Cart. Enter your payment information. We STRONGLY recommend that you print a copy of your email confirmation – it serves as your backpacking permit while you are on the trail.

PRIOR to your trip, check out the Laurel Ridge State Park website at http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/LaurelRidgeStatePark/Pages/default.aspx. Select the “Stay the Night” button for further rules, regulations and advisories.

The LHHT is also on Facebook! Check out https://www.facebook.com/laurelhighlandshikingtrail for trail conditions and advisories.