

The Car Camping Program

What is the Car Camping Program?

The Car Camping Program provides safe and legal places for unhoused people to sleep in vehicles, camper trailers, tents, Conestoga huts, or tiny homes on wheels.

How are sites selected?

Car camping sites can be located on property owned or leased by public entities, non-profits, businesses, or religious organizations.

The property owner may grant permission for up to 6 vehicles, which, by applicable City Code, includes camper trailers, tents, Conestoga huts, or tiny homes on wheels.

Who operates the sites, and who pays for the program?

The majority of car camping sites are managed by St. Vincent de Paul through their Overnight Parking Program. They oversee more than 70 permitted spots at 43 addresses in the Eugene/Springfield metro area. There are also churches, non-profits and businesses who host and oversee their own car camping sites.



The City of Eugene provides funding for the Overnight Parking Program operated by St. Vincent de Paul through a contract agreement. Funds are used to supply the portable restrooms and trash service and for St. Vincent de Paul staff to administer the program. Hosts who are not part of St. Vincent de Paul's program pay their own program costs.



How are the sites kept healthy and safe?

Car camping sites must have sanitary facilities, garbage disposal services, and a storage area for campers to store any personal items so that they are not visible from any public street. St.

Vincent de Paul provides siting, camper screening and placement, garbage disposal, portable restrooms, and linkages to services for participants in their program at no cost to the host site.

Last year, the Overnight Parking Program operated by St. Vincent de Paul helped 81 individuals, 27 families, and 41 children

How does someone get on the waiting list?

Families and individuals experiencing homelessness may apply to receive a slot at one of the sites. Single adults in need of assistance should call (541) 461-8688 or visit the Eugene Service Station at 450 Highway 99 N. Families should visit First Place Family Center at 1995 Amazon Parkway, open 7 days/week.

Where can I find more information about becoming a host site?

St. Vincent de Paul manages car camping sites at no cost to the host. Individuals or businesses who are interested in more information about their program can visit <https://www.svdp.us/what-we-do/homeless-services/overnight-parking-program/> or call (541) 461-8688. You can also reach the City Manager's Office at (541) 682-8442 to find out more information about becoming a host site.

Where do Conestoga huts come from?

A local nonprofit, Community Supported Shelters, constructs the Conestoga huts for use in homeless programs in Eugene and the surrounding area. For more information, visit www.communitysupportedshelters.org.

