



Hipcamp Host Advocacy Tips

Be a responsible Host

First and foremost, make sure you're being a responsible Host, thoughtful neighbor, and good citizen. That means all structures are permitted and safe, fire safety precautions are taken, waste is disposed of properly, noise and nuisance is kept to a minimum, etc. Review [Hipcamp's Hosting Standards](#) for a full list of considerations.

Learn the local laws

Before you started hosting, you should have familiarized yourself with your laws related to your own camping activity. If you'd like to advocate for changes to those laws, spend some extra time reading all the zoning regulations, ordinances, and building codes. Most local governments post these laws online, which enable you to search for keywords, such as: "camping", "short-term rental", or "vacation rental". It may be helpful to ask the Planning Department for help interpreting the existing laws, or you may prefer to hire a local land use attorney who can give you confidential advice.

While your county may not have a clear camping law, it may have a short-term rental or vacation rental law. These laws can be good templates to build new camping laws on top of, by adding categories like waste disposal and fire safety. It can also be helpful to research laws in surrounding counties, in case they have developed something that could be useful to copy.

Develop thoughtful recommendations

Your conversations with local government officials can be much more constructive if you offer clear and thoughtful recommendations for new policies. You can do this by:

- Writing a list of suggested changes to the existing codes.
- Hiring a lawyer to draft recommended amendments to the existing codes.
- Sharing examples from other counties, such as this one from Trinity County.

If you have difficulty developing recommendations, reach out—we can help!

Preparing compelling arguments

Let elected officials, important local organizations, neighbors, and friends know how important camping is to you, and the positive impacts it has on the county. We have an amazing story to tell!

Mission-aligned arguments

Keeping local land in local hands

Hipcamp creates sustainable income for local landowners and supports you in maintaining ownership of your property amidst rising costs of land ownership.

Generating economic prosperity

Hipcamp brings new visitors who support local businesses, from groceries to restaurants to gear shops & guide companies.

Strengthening the local food economy

Many Hipcamp Hosts are commercial farmers and ranchers. Creating value aligned income for this community means stronger, more resilient local food systems, now and in our future.

Conserving land

Hipcampers want to stay in beautiful natural areas and the income hosts earn is used to protect and preserve their properties. Preserving land for wilderness corridors, watersheds, and habitats is critical for the health of our ecosystems.



Personal-experience arguments

Your hosting story

Why you started hosting campers, why hosting is important to you, how you take care of your land, how camping contributes to the surrounding community.

What campers say

Share camper reviews about you as a Host, the region, and why they enjoyed it.

Responsible hosting

Share Hipcamp's Hosting Standards and provide examples of how you and other hosts are ensuring that your campsites are safe, environmentally responsible, and neighbor-friendly.

The significance of camping

Show the importance of camping to the county with numbers. How many campsites are there? How many campers per year? How much revenue is generated for you, local businesses, and the county/city? Email us at policy@hipcamp.com to request Hipcamp's data about your area.

Contact your elected official

The best way to create change is through your local elected officials. Look up what district your land is in and find the county supervisor or city council member that represents it. You can email them, call their office, or request an in-person meeting.

Reach out to us for advice

If you'd like to discuss these or other ideas for how to advocate for camping in your area, let us know! We're happy to provide whatever advice we can. Reach out to policy@hipcamp.com if you have any questions.

