

# ALTA CEMETERY DISTRICT

Office of  
**SMITH MOUNTAIN CEMETERY**  
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## OPERATING AND VISITOR RULES AND REGULATIONS

*We ask that all visitors remember that Smith Mountain Cemetery is a cemetery, not a public park. For many of our visitors, a visit to Smith Mountain Cemetery is symbolic of their remembering loved ones with love and affection. Everyone's behavior should be guided accordingly.*

*The rules below are not necessarily complete and are subject to change without notice.*

Alta Cemetery District is a special public cemetery district governed by a Board of Trustees that has statutory authority to exercise all rights and powers to own, operate, improve and maintain the cemetery. The California Health and Safety Code along with other California statutes has empowered the Board to adopt said rules and regulations. These Rules and Regulations shall be reviewed annually by the Board; however, the Board can make amendments to these Rules and Regulations at any time.

The control and maintenance of the Smith Mountain Cemetery grounds is vested in the District's Board of Trustees. **Interment right owners, guests and visitors are entitled only to those privileges within the Cemetery grounds as provided by these Rules and Regulations.**

### **OPERATING RULES:**

1. Alta Cemetery District, its Board of Trustees, the District Manager and all other personnel of the District shall not be responsible for injury or damage suffered by any persons, including children, in their use of the Cemetery grounds. Any person visiting the Cemetery shall do so at their own risk.
2. The Board of Trustees shall employ a District Manager and such other employees as it may determine to be necessary or useful in the operation of the District.
3. The Board reserves the right to make improvements to any portion of the cemetery grounds at any time.
4. The Cemetery or its employees shall not be responsible for any items whatsoever left on Cemetery property, including but not limited to anything of a breakable or moveable nature that becomes broken or stolen, including flowers or decorations.
5. Headstones and grave markers are the property of the purchaser. The Cemetery or its employees shall not be responsible for the headstones or any damage to them after they are installed in the Cemetery. Damage from vandalism, weather, or routine maintenance must be repaired at the owner's expense.
6. Security cameras are for the protection of Cemetery property and equipment.

## **SMITH MOUNTAIN CEMETERY**

### **INTERMENT RIGHT OWNERS, GUESTS AND VISITOR RULES:**

**Owners, guests and visitors are reminded that Smith Mountain Cemetery is not a park, it is a cemetery. Please be respectful of the grounds and others at all times and behave accordingly.**

1. Smith Mountain Cemetery gates are open 365 days a year, 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to sunset. Remaining on the Cemetery grounds after the gates are closed is considered trespassing and violators will be treated accordingly. (Penal Code Section 602).
2. The posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour within the grounds must be observed to ensure the safety of visitors and workers. No driver's training is allowed on Cemetery grounds.
3. Scooters, rollerblades/skates, hoverboards and/or skateboards are prohibited.
4. Absolutely no alcohol, marijuana or drugs may be carried or consumed on cemetery grounds. Violators may be subject to citation by the Tulare County Sheriff Department.
5. Smoking of any substance is strictly prohibited on Cemetery grounds.
6. Hanging of any item whatsoever, including decorations, clothing, wind chimes, etc., from any tree within Cemetery grounds is strictly prohibited.
7. No more than a total of 3 approved, unbreakable vases/flower containers allowed within each marker, which includes the vases that become flush with the marker when not in use and an unbreakable container with a maximum diameter of 8 inches.
8. Fences, structures, glass objects (including jars, vases, bottles or containers), decorative marbles, rocks, food or any other unauthorized items are prohibited.
9. Flowers, fresh or silk, and all other decorations must be placed in the vases/container within the marker. Flags and solar lights 24 inches or less may be placed within the vases/container. Flags and solar lights must not have pointed tops or ends. Plastic, battery operated prayer candles may be placed within the vases/unbreakable container. Items may not be staked or secured to the ground. Mylar balloons, glass, ceramic or metal decorations of any type are strictly prohibited. Limit of one solar light per vase/container.
10. All flowers/decorations, will be removed and discarded each Tuesday during the Spring/Summer mowing season beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of November. Families are responsible for clearing items they want to keep prior to mowing. Clean-up schedule is posted at the office.
11. Seasonal decorations (Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Father's Day) will be removed the second Tuesday following the related holiday. Christmas decorations will be removed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of January. No Christmas decorations may exceed 30 inches in height, measured from the base to the top of the decoration.
12. Funeral floral arrangements and/or decorations will remain for approximately one week following burial.
13. No person shall place on any grave any mylar balloons, boxes, globes, shells, cans, jugs, bottles, lawn decorations, items on metal or wooden stakes. Such items will be removed for disposal by District personnel without compensation to that person.
14. Dead flowers and/or worn decorations and all other unauthorized items will be removed and discarded by the District personnel as needed.
15. No person shall disturb or trespass on any gravesite to which that person does not hold the interment rights. This includes placing of chairs, stools, blankets, etc.

## SMITH MOUNTAIN CEMETERY

16. No person shall disturb the peace of any other Cemetery owner, guest or visitor. No loud music.
17. All children must be under the supervision and control of their adult companion. Adult companions will be held liable for any and all damage caused by uncontrolled children.
18. Games of any type are prohibited. This includes (but is not limited to) card games, board games, sports (basketball, football, Frisbee).
19. No animals, other than service animals are allowed on cemetery grounds. Service animals must be kept on a leash.
20. No person shall burn any combustible material, including but not limited to coal, wood chips, propane, natural gas and/or firewood.
21. Possession and/or the use of fireworks of any kind are prohibited.
22. The use of a cooking apparatus, including but not limited to, barbecues, camp stoves and/or fire pits is strictly prohibited.
23. Ice chests/coolers of any shape, size or capacity are not allowed on Cemetery grounds regardless of content.
24. Barbecues and picnics and all items and activities associated with barbecues and picnics are not allowed on cemetery grounds. Canopies, tents, awnings, pop-ups or tables, unless provided by the District, are prohibited. Chairs being used on the Cemetery grounds can only be placed on your loved one's grave while you are visiting. Hand-held umbrellas are allowed; large and/or beach-type umbrellas are prohibited.
25. "Special Events" (unauthorized funeral services, celebrations) are prohibited without pre-approval from the District. Attendees at any unauthorized "special event" will be evicted from the grounds immediately and are subject to further law enforcement as necessary.
26. If any tree, shrub, marker, monument or object is considered unsightly, objectionable or detrimental to the appearance of the cemetery, it may be removed by District personnel without warning.
27. If any tree, shrub, marker, monument or object endangers the staff and/or groundskeepers, it will be removed by District personnel without warning.
28. No person other than District employees or persons acting under the direction of the District Manager shall plant any tree, shrub, grass seed, ground covering or flowers on the Cemetery grounds. Donations for trees are acceptable but trees will be selected and planted by the District groundskeepers under direction of the Board.
29. If any tree, shrub, plant or vine situated on any plot becomes detrimental or unsightly due to roots, branches, height or infringement to adjacent plots, streets or the cemetery grounds, the District Manager or any other person authorized by the Board may enter upon such plot and remove or trim such trees, shrubs, plants or vines as deemed necessary.

***These rules and regulations were approved by the Board of Trustees of the Alta Cemetery District and are subject to change without notice.***

***Any questions regarding any of the above will be answered at the Cemetery office or by phone at (559) 591-3348, Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.***