

Westman Naturalists Inc. Guidelines for Field Trip Participants

Guidelines' Intent

- Ensure a respectful and comfortable environment for all.
- Promote consistent, enjoyable, high quality, and safe outings.
- Have fun exploring and learning about nature together.

Guidelines for Field Trip Participants Before and During the Outing

Westman Naturalists Inc. (WN) prepares and advertises events in an email newsletter, on the WN website and social media with a brief description of what the outing entails. Participants may be asked to sign up and provide contact information using a digital link in the posting. The outing leader will provide participants with more detailed information, such as directions, timing, safety information, and other preparatory items via email closer to the date of the outing.

Before signing up for an outing

- Review the event posting and assess whether you are able to safely participate.
- Read the waiver you will be expected to sign.

Preparing for an outing

- Review the emailed directions for the event.
- Be prepared for anticipated weather conditions.
- Ensure you and your group members pack or wear appropriate footwear, bug spray, sunscreen, clothing and hats.
- Pack sufficient water and snacks or a lunch for the duration of the event.
- **Please notify the Trip Leader if you have signed up and cannot attend the outing.**

During an outing

- Sign the waiver form, and for your children as necessary.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for supervising their children at all times. 😊
- Introduce yourself and include brief information about yourself, as you feel comfortable.
- Watch for common dangers such as poison ivy, tree roots, or other tripping hazards and point them out to other group members.
- Stay together as a group, for safety and to keep the outing on schedule.
- Tell one of the leaders if you are feeling unwell or if you have to leave the outing early.
- Respect the natural environment by practicing Leave No Trace principles: leave only footprints and take only photographs.
- If you would like to contribute photos to be shared on WN social media, please email them to the WN email – contact@westmannaturalists.ca
- For events held on private property, participants are requested to respect the owner's wishes.
- Permission to access the property is granted for the duration of the outing only and does not extend past the event.
- Remember to have fun! Questions and comments are welcomed and we encourage you to share your knowledge with other group members!