

# **SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SVIMS)**

## **MUSHROOM FORAY POLICY October 18th 2019**

### **(And other outdoor activities)**

Upon joining SVIMS, members will have signed a SVIMS waiver, which would have been witnessed and filed by the membership secretary or designate.

To participate in a SVIMS foray it is necessary for the member to be aware of and consent to the following:

1. The need to follow the rules as outlined below on pages 1 and 2.
2. That there are inherent risks to any foray such as getting lost, injured, and attacked by an animal, as well as health risks on allergen and insect vector exposures, and that the member assumes the unavoidable risks in return for the foray experience and agrees not to hold SVIMS, its board or members responsible for any unfavourable outcomes.
3. That any foray attendee must be a paid up SVIMS member in good standing on the day prior to the foray and that no memberships will be sold on the day of the foray.
4. That out of town guest speakers are considered signed up members of SVIMS, but must follow and be aware of the SVIMS foray policy and procedures.
5. That a SVIMS family membership member must be only those on record at the time of joining SVIMS.
6. That on a foray, a minor as part of that membership, must be accompanied by an adult legal relative as on that record, and that person assumes full and sole responsibility for that minor for the duration of the foray or event.
7. That mushroom consumption during a foray is strongly discouraged and that any subsequent consumption of gathered fungi is the sole responsibility of that member.
8. That the only dogs allowed on a foray are service and truffle dogs.

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## **Procedures to follow by an attending SVIMS member at forays:**

There will be a sign in and out form, which each attendee or family designate needs to complete and which lists the following:

That the participant, who is a member, indicate awareness of the SVIMS foray policy and waivers.

Provide a sign in name, signature and a cell/mobile phone number. Any legal family guardian must sign in for the minor for whom that legal adult member assumes responsibility.

Be aware that the foray leader will do a count of the number of participants at the start and end of the foray.

That the foray lead will, prior to the start of the foray, provide a reassembly time and place. If able the foray lead will provide a contact cell phone number to the participants but, of course, the use of which understandably will be limited by reception constraints

That at the end of a foray or if the need arises, earlier, at the discretion of the foray lead, all participants must sign out. A minor has to be signed out by the adult assuming responsibility at the sign in.

**That any participants leaving prior to the end of a foray must notify the foray lead and sign out, and that from that point on assume sole responsibility for their conduct and safety.**

That at the end of a foray, the sign out numbers must match the sign in numbers at the reassembly point and time. If there is a discrepancy, the foray leader will try to contact the missing participant, and if the person unable to be reached, then after an additional half hour or earlier at the discretion of the lead, will initiate a rescue protocol . The missing participant will be assumed lost or injured and the emergency services alerted. **Therefore, the responsibility for signing out is that of the participant, who must be fully aware of the consequences of not doing so.**

A buddy system is always strongly encouraged and It is a strong recommendation that all participants have some proficiency in:

1. Map and compass use and the need to download any area maps.
2. The use of off grid navigation and contact aids as well as how to initiate an emergency locator. Backup power packs for recharging often necessary as GPS a power drainer.
3. A whistle protocol.

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## SVIMS Foray Lead Check List and Guide

1. Awareness of the above foray policy and procedures.
2. Have a SVIMS active membership list.
3. List of board members and their contact numbers.
4. Check prior to the foray that all necessary forms and documents are in the foray pack.

At the Foray:

1. Have the SVIMS foray sign in and out form which all participants have to complete. Confirm that all the participants are active members and are aware of the SVIMS foray policy and procedures.
2. Provide an end of foray reassembly time and place and if possible a GPS coordinate.
3. Provide to all attendees a cell phone contact number of the lead or designate, being aware that reception limitations could be problematic.
4. **Ensure a match between the numbers signing in and out. If there is a mismatch, then attempt to contact the person(s) that have not signed out at the designated reassembly time and place.**
5. Wait a reasonable amount of time depending on weather and circumstances, and then initiate a rescue protocol with notification of law enforcement and rescue agencies through a 911 call. If cell phone reception limits the ability to make any contacts including emergency services, then the lead will appoint a foray assistant to leave the site and proceed to a point where emergency contact able to be made. Taking a GPS coordinate is always encouraged.
6. At the foray lead's discretion a rescue protocol, can be initiated immediately if this felt necessary, or of course in an emergency at any time. The lead has the discretion to terminate a foray at any time but if so then all attendees have to sign out. This can be problematic if the participants have dispersed.
7. The lead or designate does not leave the foray reassembly site till all participants have signed out. Your own safety and that of the other foray participants however, essential at all times. If a rescue is in progress, remain at the scene unless requested to leave by the rescue team and if so, then exchange contact numbers for updates on the status of the rescue. Notify and update an executive board member of the situation. Your pack will contain the contact information.