

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

## **MUSHROOM FORAY POLICY 28th August 2020**

**Updated from October 2019**

**(and other event/activities)**

Upon joining SVIMS or renewing membership, members will have signed or agreed to the terms of the SVIMS membership waiver, which would have been reviewed or witnessed and filed by the membership secretary or designate.

To participate in a SVIMS foray (or other event) 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. Please remember that the lead does have the discretion to terminate the foray at any time should there be a concern that continuing would not be in the best interests of the attendees with the exception as per the contagion clause. If the foray is terminated then all members will be signed out as in the end of foray protocol below.**
- 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.**

That out of town SVIMS guests as designated by the board, are considered signed up members of SVIMS, but must follow and be aware of the SVIMS waivers, foray policy and procedures.

- 4. That a SVIMS family membership member must be only those on record at the time of joining SVIMS.**

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 this adult/s assumes full and sole responsibility for that minor for the duration of the foray or event.

5. That mushroom consumption during a foray is strongly discouraged and that any subsequent consumption/handling of any gathered fungi is the sole responsibility of the attendees.
6. That the only dogs allowed on a foray are service and truffle dogs.
- 7.\*\*\* Contagion requirements that are mandated and active on the date of the foray/event.
  - a. Compliance with any directives and mandates in effect on the day of the foray/event as issued by the Ministry of Health of British Columbia.
  - b. Responsibility for identifying and mitigating the risks of their attendance, and always exercising due diligence.
  - c. Appreciate that in the absence of compliance with the health directives during the foray, the lead must terminate the foray/event and has no discretion to do otherwise. On termination of the foray all members must sign out as per the end of foray/event protocol.

### **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:

1. That the participant, who is a member, indicates awareness of the SVIMS foray policy and waivers.
2. 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.
3. Be aware that the foray leader will do a count of the number of participants at the start and end of the foray.
4. 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 may be limited by reception constraints
5. 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.

**6. 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 assumes sole responsibility for their conduct and safety.**

**7.\*\*\* 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 is 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 advisable 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 are often necessary as GPS is a power drainer.**
- 3. A whistle protocol.**

## **SVIMS Foray Lead Check List and Guide**

- 1. Awareness of the above foray policy and procedures.**
- 2. Have a SVIMS active membership list.**
- 3. A 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 such contact able to be made. Take a GPS coordinate if possible.**

**At the foray lead's discretion this can be initiated immediately if this felt necessary, and 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 will have to sign out. Note the contagion clause below.**

**6. 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 rescue. Notify and update an executive board member of the situation. Your pack will contain the information.**

**7.\*\*\* Contagion Clause:**

**As per the foray policy active of the date of the activity, in the absence of noncompliance with the health directive, the foray/event must be terminated and all attendees signed out as required at the end of any foray. An executive board member to be notified so that public health can be made aware of the situation, to allow a final decision on the next steps to be taken if any. The contact numbers will be in the foray pack.**