

South Vancouver Island Mycological Society (SVIMS) Foray Policy

(For Membership Form on the Website)

Upon joining SVIMS or renewing a membership, members will have to agree to the terms of the SVIMS Membership Waiver, the Foray policy, and the Privacy Policy active at that time.

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

1. The need to follow the guidelines 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 will not be in the best interests of the attendees.
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 consequence.
3. That on any foray an adult 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. 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 on a day foray, a minor member (less than 19) must be accompanied by an adult legal parent/child representative who is also a member on record, and that this adult assumes full and sole responsibility for that minor for the duration of the foray or event.

A minor member aged 16-18 may attend a day foray only, unaccompanied by a legal parent/child representative who is also a member but that this adult must appreciate that this minor will be unsupervised and must be capable of following all directives as determined by the foray lead. That adult assumes full and sole responsibility for that minor for during the foray. Preregistration is mandatory with the Foray coordinator on record at www.svims.club

5. That mushroom consumption during a foray is strongly discouraged and that any subsequent identification, 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/health precaution requirements that are mandated and active on the date of the foray/event must be strictly adhered to.

a. The member needs to be compliant with any directives and mandates in effect on the day of the foray/event as issued by the Ministry of Health or other Agency of British Columbia.

b. The member should be responsible for identifying and mitigating the risks of their attendance, and always exercise due diligence.

c. Appreciate that in the absence of compliance with the health directives during the foray, the lead must terminate the foray/event. On termination of the foray all members must sign out as per the end of foray 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 (form attached) :

1. The participant, who is a member, indicates awareness of the SVIMS foray policy and waivers.

2. Provides a sign in name, signature, and a cell/mobile phone number. Any legal parent/child representative must sign in for the minor for whom that legal adult member assumes full responsibility. A minor member who is 16/18 must have been preregistered as above in clause 4.

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, 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 reassemble, be conducted back to the reassembly point and sign out. A minor, less than 16, must be signed out by the adult signing in the minor. A 16-18 minor will be responsible for their own sign out.

6. That any participants leaving prior to the end of a foray must notify the foray lead and sign out, and appreciate that from that point on assumes sole responsibility for their conduct and safety. A minor who 16-18 and unaccompanied cannot sign out prematurely.

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 cannot be reached, then after an additional half hour or earlier at the discretion of the lead, a rescue protocol will be initiated. 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 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 are often necessary as GPS is a power drainer.
3. A whistle protocol.

*Document amended on January 11th, 2024