

Guidelines for Foray Leaders

Before you leave your home...Things to bring to foray:

1. Sign-Up Sheet/Waiver
2. Species List form
3. Several reference books for purpose of specimen ID.
4. The current voucher list and a list of specimens found on previous forays during the month the present foray is being held. (This can be a tremendous time saver when identifying specimens.)
(all can be downloaded from MOMS web site – www.momyco.org)

At the gathering place...Things to do upon gathering with the group:

1. Gather everyone together at the designated time and have everyone introduce themselves.
2. Send the Sign-Up Sheet/Waiver around for signatures
3. Tell the group about hunting mushrooms, what they may find, how to pick, what to pick, etc.
For example: "We like to get a specimen of all mushrooms for ID purposes, so anything you are not going to take home for the table, please dig up and get the entire mushroom—even some substrate."
Another example: "If you are taking mushrooms to eat, cut them and get as little dirt as possible—this way you'll have less cleaning to do."
4. Discuss safety issues:
 - a. pair up with buddies, don't leave anyone out—even you.
 - b. don't get lost
 - c. if anyone should leave early, please someone-preferably you, the leader.
 - d. if anyone should get hurt, contact you, the leader
5. Explain the importance of respecting the rules of the place at which you are hunting.
6. Discuss the ethics of mushroom hunting ie. don't strip the land, be careful where you step, leave small and imperfect edibles, take only 1 specimen of non-edibles, let spores, fall, etc
7. Count the number of participants and remember the number so that you can do a count every so often. Make sure that the number of names on the Sign-in Sheet equals the actual head count
8. If you have a cell phone, take it with you and give the number out. If you don't have a cell phone, ask if someone would bring theirs. However, cell phones often don't work out in the field.
9. Give the group a time to meet back at a designated place, usually 1–1 ½ hours.

Things to remember:

- If a participant should get seriously injured, call 911 on your phone. If this isn't possible, go to the Visitor's Center immediately and call 911
- At the designated meeting time, find a place to lay out your mushrooms and start identifying. Complete the Species List Form, recording name(s) of specimen, reference book used, and page number, if possible.
- Clean up the area before you leave!!!
- Most of all---have fun!
- Don't forget to return the Sign-Up Sheet/Waiver and the Species List to:

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