

KPMS Foray Information

The following information covers the basics for going on a foray with the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society. Note that you will also be required to sign a liability release form at the beginning of the foray.

Equipment: A sturdy wicker basket or a mesh bag for collecting, a small knife for harvesting, a brush for cleaning mushrooms, and appropriate clothing & footwear are the bare essentials. We **require** a whistle and sometimes a hunter's orange vest for safety. You **will** not go on a foray if you do not have a whistle, or a vest on certain lands during hunting season. Whistles and vests are available for \$5 at our meetings, or possibly from the foray leader. Food and water are recommended on all day forays. Other things you might consider are a walking stick, and a compass or GPS. We also **strongly** recommend a FRS radio.

Responsibility: It is your responsibility to conduct yourself on a foray so as to not impact the enjoyment of other participants. This includes but is not limited to: knowing where you and others are; knowing and responding to whistle or car horn codes and/or radio calls; meeting at set times as determined by the leader; notifying the leader if you leave early; being physically able to walk in the woods and hear others. Everybody is affected if we have to stop to find somebody.

Whistle (horn) & Radio Usage:

- Whistle (horn) calls are a distinct 1+ second strong blast, not a quick peep.
- 1 call = I'm here, where are you?
- 2 calls = Come here (usually leader).
- 3 calls = Emergency, everybody respond.
- The leader will whistle once every 5-15 minutes, listen for it and respond. Others may hear your whistle but not the leaders. You may also blow your whistle once to locate others.
- We use radio channel 10-0 unless otherwise indicated.

Passes: Washington now requires a Discover Pass for access to State Parks, DFW & DNR lands. That pass is in addition to any State Park fees. Certain trailheads into Olympic National Forest also require a federal Recreation Pass.

Regulations: There are many different regulations covering the harvest of mushrooms in the areas we foray. Further details are on our website.

- Olympic National Park: 1 quart per day
- Olympic National Forest: 1 gallon or 1 larger mushroom per species, 3 gallons total per day
- WA State Parks: 2 gallons per day
- WA DNR: 5 gallons per year
- WA DFW: no regulations
- Kitsap County Parks: 1 gallon or 1 larger mushroom per species, 3 gallons total per day

Etiquette:

- 1) Respect private property!
- 2) Pick only 1/2 of the mushrooms you find; leave the rest for spores and food for wildlife.
- 3) Walk and harvest gently; "*leave no trace*".
- 4) Toss specimens and trimmings off the trail into the woods.
- 5) Do not collect mushrooms from previously harvested areas, upcoming club foray areas or near chemically treated areas.
- 6) Use a knife to cut the mushroom to minimize the impact to the fungus and habitat. This also keeps your harvested mushrooms cleaner.

Consumption:

- 1) Only eat positively identified mushrooms, i.e. "*when in doubt, throw it out*".
- 2) Always cook mushrooms.
- 3) Consume only a small amount the first time you try a new species.
- 4) Don't combine mushroom species, at least to start with.
- 5) Learn deadly look-alikes.