

## Safety Guidelines & Responsibilities for Groups Visiting our Educational Nature Reserves

We are looking forward to meeting you at Nower Wood or Bay Pond.

You will need to be aware of a few things to ensure your group has an enjoyable time. All our activities are planned with safety in mind and a qualified First Aider will accompany each group. Safety instructions will be given at the beginning of each session, which we expect to be followed by all. Please will you make sure everyone is aware of their responsibilities listed below:-

### Visiting Leader's Responsibilities:

1. **The school group leader is responsible for overall discipline during the day, including lunchtime.**
2. Please ensure that your group is appropriately dressed i.e. warm and waterproof clothing, Wellies in autumn & winter. No shorts or cropped tops (**this decreases the likelihood of ticks attaching to the body – please see over**). Surrey Wildlife Trust recommends all visitors have a bath/shower when back at home after their visit to check for any ticks that may be on the skin. We also recommend that all clothes worn on the day are washed.
3. We are a nut-free centre. Please ensure all visitors **do not bring any nuts on site** for the safety of our staff and our visitors.
4. We provide clean towels for hand drying at Bay Pond (there are warm air hand dryers at Nower Wood). Should you prefer to bring your own paper towels please also provide methods for collecting and disposing of them away from our sites.
5. Please ensure the correct ratio of adults to children attend (see Surrey Wildlife Trust requirements).
6. Please encourage all accompanying adults to join in the activities.
7. Smoking, drinking and drugs will **not** be tolerated.
8. Please ensure all mobile phones are turned off or set to silent during the sessions.
9. To help the Surrey Wildlife Trust leaders, please ensure all children have name labels or name stickers on them.

### Children's Responsibilities:

To make sure you have an enjoyable time you need to:-

1. Listen very carefully to what you are told by Surrey Wildlife Trust leaders.
2. Bring your lunch with you and take all your litter home.
3. Don't wear your best party gear - old clothes, wellies and waterproof clothing are better
4. Take care around the reserve - we don't want any accidents.

**LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS,  
TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS  
KILL NOTHING BUT TIME**

We do not wish to alarm you but all contact with the natural world (whether it is your garden at home, the school grounds or a nature reserve) has risks. We have completed a full risk assessment to minimise these. However there are a number of illnesses of which you should be aware. (More information available on the Health Protection Agency website [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk))

#### Tetanus

Tetanus lives in the soil. It will only be transmitted to humans if there is a cut in the skin. Therefore any cuts should be covered with a waterproof plaster. If you have contact with the soil it is advisable to ensure your tetanus jabs are up to date. Most children will already be covered because of the child immunisation programmes.

#### Weil's Disease

This is a water-borne infection that is transmitted by rat's urine. Whenever there is contact with pond water, hands will be checked for open cuts or weeping eczema. If these are present, they will be covered with a waterproof glove provided by the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Weil's disease has flu like symptoms and an incubation period of between 7 and 14 days. If there is any concern see a doctor and explain that you have been in contact with pond water.

#### Lyme Disease

This can be caught from tick bites. Ticks are best avoided by wearing long sleeved tops and trousers tucked into socks. Consider using insect repellent. Remove a tick by gripping it as close to the skin as possible with a pair of fine tweezers and pulling it away gently. Fortunately only a small minority of ticks carry the disease and disease transmission is less likely to occur in the first 18 hours of tick attachment.

Lyme disease has various symptoms, the most common being a rash, headaches, swelling or pains in the joints. If concerned contact your doctor, mention the tick and how long it was on the skin.