
Foray Safety Class

Required as of 2020 for WVMS Members

The purpose of Willamette Valley Mushroom Society forays is to discover and learn about a wide variety of fungi, edible and otherwise, that we find in the forests in our region.

Pre-travel checklist.

- Check your spare tire.
- Start out with a full tank of gas when going to remote forest areas.
- Carry a blanket in the vehicle in case you must spend the night.
- Always tell someone where you will be mushroom hunting and when you plan on returning.

Required Foray Items

These items are required for members to attend WVMS forays!

- Water and snacks.
- Appropriate clothing for the weather.
- Whistle
 - ❖ 1 Whistle blasts = "Where are you?"
 - ❖ 2 Whistle blasts = "Here I am"
 - ❖ 3 Whistle blasts = "I NEED HELP"
 - ❖ 4 whistle blasts = "Stay Put Help is Coming!"
 - ❖ 5 Whistle blasts = "Emergency! Meet at Vehicles Now!"
- Compass and/or GPS (Don't rely on following someone else, you may be separated)
- Some way to tell time, a watch or phone.
- Basic First Aid kit (optional). E.g., band-aids, pain reliever, bug repellent, Benadryl (for stings), Tecnu Poison Ivy & Oak Scrub and any personal medications. The club has a large first aid kit that will be present at every foray.

Things that will make your foray easier.

- Mushroom identification book. See our book list
<https://www.wvmssalem.org/recommended-books>
 - Get a mushroom harvest permit, if required, in the area you are going.
 - Container(s) for the mushrooms. E.g., baskets, buckets, mesh bags work well, etc. Plastic bags are a poor choice as they rip easily. Paper bags disintegrate when wet.
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- Folding knife to cut mushrooms and a brush to clean off duff/dirt.
- A lighter or waterproof matches.
- Wax paper bags work well for unknowns to be identified. Brown bags work if it's not raining.
- FRS walkie-talkie radio (optional).
- A small camera for taking photos of mushrooms.
- A pen and notebook for the ID session at the end of the foray.

Sign-up

- We have two foray seasons, Spring (April-June) and Fall (September-December).
- To sign up, you must be a WVMS Member, signed waiver, and taken this class.
- There is a three foray sign up limit for each season (Spring and Fall). For members that want to participate in more than three forays, if foray does not fill up, you may sign up from one week to 48 hours prior to foray start.
- Do not sign-up other members. Each adult member must fill out the foray google form separately and completely. You are responsible for any minors accompanying you on the foray.
- No Guests. They must sign up and take the Foray Safety class before they are allowed to go.
- Each foray has a limited number of members allowed. Our membership is growing, and we can't fit everyone on a foray, so we are limiting the number of people on a foray, this is left up to the discretion of the Foray Leader.
- Foray signup is open until 48 hours to the start of the foray.
- If you violate the rules, foray privileges may be revoked!

To sign up for a foray, log in to the website www.wvmssalem.org

1. Click on the drop-down menu from the top right corner of the screen
2. Click on "Foray Schedule"
3. Scroll down to see the foray list
4. Click on the Foray you want to sign up for
5. Fill out the Google Form completely (do not sign-up other members)
6. You will receive a confirmation message and email
7. If you do not see those, it did not go through

Canceling your spot on the foray

You MUST cancel your spot on the foray at least 3 days before the foray. To cancel, go to the confirmation email that was sent to you when you signed up.

1. Click on the "Edit Response" button in the email
2. The form will open, make sure your email address is correct and click "next"
3. Scroll to the bottom and in the "Notes to the Foray Leader" Type CANCELED in the box and submit it.

4. Alternatively, you can email your foray leader, their email is listed in the confirmation email.

Foray Expectations

Meet-up Location

The morning of the foray we meet at a central location to sort out a carpool. Some people will leave their cars and others will drive. Your foray leader will direct you. If you live along the way and want to meet at a secondary location, that is allowed if your foray leader suggests it. To sign up for the secondary meet-up location, make a note in the box at the end of the Google Form.

- Arrive at meet-up location about 10 minutes early. If you are late the leader may choose to leave without you, with or without attempting to contact you.
- Sign in with Foray Leader
- Listen to the Foray Leader's instructions
- Follow Foray Leader's carpool terms
- Leave location on time
- Stay in the carpooling line, we make multiple stops.

Traveling to Foray Location

- Stay in the carpool line, seriously! You cannot go ahead of the group or stop unless there is an emergency.
- Drive the speed limit. The foray leader sets the pace, please don't pass, or go too slow. We NEED to stay together.
- Know which cars are in your carpool. And stay in the formation the foray leader has put you in.
- Stop at all designated locations. Do not change positions in the carpool line up.
- If you are carpooling, give your driver an appropriate amount of money to help pay for gas.
- At foray location, gather for meeting before heading into the woods.
- Foray leader will orient members to the area and direct the time to return from each mushroom hunting session. Return on time.
- **DON'T LEAVE THE FORAY WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE FORAY LEADER!**

Foray Leaders

- As volunteers, they have spent their time scouting, organizing, and making sure everyone is accounted for and safe in the woods.
- They will lead the foray to a place in the Coastal Range or Cascade Range. See the foray schedule for specific areas. The seasons vary quite a bit, so don't always expect to find edible mushrooms. But use your time as a learning experience and have fun!
- They set time for duration of foray and may lead you to multiple places on a foray.

- They do not need to know about mushroom ID to lead. It is up to you to learn, ask questions and be smart about mushroom identification.

We need foray leaders! Please contact our Foray Director at salemmushroomclub@gmail.com if you are interested.

Harvesting Wild Mushrooms

- **Do not eat** any mushroom you cannot positively identify and do not eat any mushroom raw.
- Don't mix unidentified mushrooms with your known edibles.
- Make sure you have your required mushroom permits.
- Don't pick near someone else's mushroom patch unless you are invited to share.

NEVER LEAVE A FORAY WITHOUT TELLING YOUR FORAY LEADER!

Leaving a foray

- Never leave without telling the Foray Leader
- Participate in the customary group foray photo.
- Foray Leader will tell you when the foray is over.
- We do not caravan back to Salem, you will ride in the car you came in and navigate back on your own.
- Bring your carpoolers back to their vehicles and make sure you get all of your stuff out of their car. Be courteous and thank your drivers!

Foray Etiquette

- Follow your foray leader's instructions.
- Carry a backpack or bag with your required items.
- Always stay within eyesight of someone. Please designate a buddy to pair up with in the woods. If you are new or feel uncomfortable being in the woods ask the foray leader to pair you with an experienced member.
- Know your whistles! If someone uses a whistle command you need to know how to properly respond to the situation.
- Come back to the meeting place at the required time. If you are more than five minutes late to return to the vehicles the foray leader will start honking a car horn.
- If you hear a car horn or air horn, stop what you are doing and come back immediately. If you are in trouble, blow your whistle in 3 blasts.

- If you carpool remember to offer your driver gas money.
- Please, participate in the customary group photo at the end of the foray.
- At the end of each foray we like to try and ID the all the different types of mushrooms we found. This is a great time to learn about what other mushrooms are in the forest. Get out your field guides, bring a notebook and take lots of pictures.

Secret Locations

Our forays are only as good as our locations. The foray leaders and other members have spent lots of time trying to find our club good locations to take lots of people into the woods. Please do not share these locations with others, especially not on a public forum. We look forward to going back to these spots without them being overrun by lots of other people.

Quick Review:

- **Requirements:** Page 1
- **How to sign up:** Page 2
- **Canceling:** Page 2
- **Foray Etiquette:** Page 4
- **See the foray schedule** go to www.wvmssalem.org > Foray Schedule
- **Lost and Found:** Email us at salemmushroomclub@gmail.com so we can track down the owner and arrange to get them their lost item back.
- **Interested in a mushroom field guide?**
<https://www.wvmssalem.org/recommended-books>

Remember, do not eat any mushroom you cannot positively identify and do not eat any mushroom raw!

If you need poison help call 1-800-222-1222 or go to our website, at the bottom of every page, to find the links to poison control in your area.