

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PSMS FIELD TRIPS

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Where are the field trips listed for the membership?

We generally have at least 4-5 field trips for our members each spring and fall. The list of field trips is located:

1. On an insert in the mailed April and September Sporeprints newsletters.
2. In the Members area online– To access the field trip insert online go to the “Membership” heading on our home page (www.psms.org), and click on Members’ page. Log in with your user name and password. On the page that opens scroll down to “My Membership Information” in the Information Resources section, and click on “Newsletters”. (You may have to log in again at this time). The inserts are listed on the page with the most recent insert on top.
3. On the PSMS calendar. – To access the calendar follow the instructions above for logging in to the Members’ pages. Under “My Membership Information”, click on “Calendar of Events” in the Event section.

Do I need to register for the field trips?

Preregistration is not required for any regular field trips - just show up at those you're interested in going to. An exception to this is the Memorial Day Field trip which is a PSMS volunteer appreciation field trip and requires pre-registration (you must have volunteered in the year previously and be on the PSMS volunteer list to participate) .

All field trip participants must sign the field trip sign-in sheet at the field trip itself and by doing so accept the liability waiver at the top of the sheet in order to participate. This sheet also helps us keep track of the number of people attending the field trips, who is willing to host, who is staying for the potluck, names in the event someone is lost, contacts in the case of belongings that are found or lost, etc.

What should I bring or wear?

- Raingear, layer up, hat, hiking shoes or boots, hiking poles?
- A collecting basket if desired
- A knife, guidebook?
- Bug repellent
- A loud emergency whistle (required for anyone on a guided field trip)
- Your covid mask and proof of vaccination (Everyone must be vaccinated and be wearing a mask to participate in PSMS in person activities.
- Camp chair so that you have a place to sit
- Water/snacks/ post field trip food for yourself (plates, utensils, cups?)
- Small emergency kit?/ any medicines that you require
- Harvest permits required for hunting mushrooms (<https://www.psms.org/WAMushroomRulesMay2016.pdf>)
- Car Permits required to access the trails, state parks or federal land
- An orange vest for visibility during the hunting season?
- Potluck item to share if participating

Can I bring other people who are not members?

FIELD TRIPS ARE STRICTLY FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Members of your household that wish to attend field trips should be listed as members on your PSMS profile page. You may not bring a friend or groups of friends or other families who are non-members. There are some field trips that are **PSMS VOLUNTEERS ONLY**. They will be noted as such and you will have to have volunteered prior to the field trip to attend. Our field trip expenses are paid for by member’s dues.

When are the field trips? Can we camp overnight at the site?

Field trip times are held on Saturdays, with mushroom ID people available. Additional camping times may be available from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning, for those field trip sites that list the dates to cover the entire weekend (this is noted on the field trip - insert and calendar). This is complementary to our membership (in the group camp area only) and is paid for out of our membership dues and annual fall show income.

When should I arrive at the field trip location?

Please arrive early on Saturday (between 8:00 and 9:00 am) if you want to join with others going out or be led by a PSMS field trip guide. Be prepared. *Dress appropriately.* It is highly recommended that you go out into the woods with at least one other person for safety reasons. Be sure to have your cell phone charged and with you; remember that cell phone texting sometimes gets through when calls do not. Following these simple suggestions could actually save your life. It is also very handy if you have Motorola like two-way radios for communication in rough terrain or when out of sight with others.

You now must sign up ahead of time for a guided field trip at www.psms.org under “Events” and “Event registration”. Priority for Guided field trips is given to new PSMS members, since space is very limited. You MUST now have an emergency whistle to go on a guided field trip.

What about food?

YOU MUST now bring your serving utensils, own plates, utensils, napkins and cups for participation in the potluck or for snacks.

If you are new, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to our volunteer hosts, who bring and serve up the coffee and snacks Saturday morning. Complimentary coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided at about 8:30-9 am. These are paid for out of our membership dues. Remember to bring your own lunch snacks. Potlucks are usually held sometime between 3 and 5 pm. If you would like to host or co-host a future field trip, contact our volunteer host coordinator at host@psms.org. It is a terrific way to meet and get to know many of our interesting membership, and there is still plenty of time to go mushroom foraging. You may even discover a new foraging partner or partners while serving up that morning coffee!

Is there a way we can carpool with other members?

Consider joining the PSMS Message boards in the Member's area of the website, and let the group know if you are looking for a carpool, and whether you are offering to drive or that you need a ride. If you are a passenger, please remember to offer to help pay for the driver's gas expenses. Drivers, please let your passengers know the terms of your agreement up front, such as if you plan to stay the entire day, gas money contributions, if you are staying overnight on the weekend trips, etc.

To join or post in the Message Boards, first log in to your member profile page at the www.psms.org website using your user name and the password assigned to you when you joined PSMS. Passwords can be reset using the "Forgot your Password?" link on the sign in page. Under "Members Area Features" in the Communication section, click on Message Boards. You will find a topic labeled "Carpool".

Can I bring my dog?

Only friendly, well behaved dogs are welcome at field trips, and they must be leashed and under your supervision (including cleaning up after them) at all times. You may not leave your dog tethered and unattended at a shelter or campsite, in your car, or for others to have to watch while out collecting. At the field trip on the Memorial Day weekend, which is on private property, you may bring only your own dog.

Can we go ahead of time and hunt in the area?

Please do not hunt in the immediate field trip areas up to two weeks prior to the field trip. This is a courtesy to your fellow members and also to our club itself.

Do I need any kind of permits for the field trips?

You are responsible for your own harvesting or access permits for our field trip areas.

Here is a description of the different access passes: (<https://www.wta.org/go-outside/passes>)

Some areas in National Forests are posted and require a Northwest Trail Pass to hunt or park there, some do not. Often, you will not need these in the field trip area itself unless we note it as such. However, if you go out into other areas around our rented area on your own to hike or forage you may need the Northwest Trail pass in each vehicle.

If you are parking in and hunting in any state parks, you must have a Discover Pass in each vehicle.

Harvesting permits may or may not be required depending on the area in which you are hunting. You can only have one personal harvest limit in your car per person, you can't combine limits from different areas. Harvesting permits if required, must be obtained from the Forest Service Office in the area in which you are hunting. Be sure to check with the forest service ahead of time, some offer online service, some don't. Many forest service offices are not open on weekends to issue permits, but they do work to issue citations. Some areas don't require a permit for harvesting if you remain under the personal limit threshold.

Here is a link to our compiled Washington Harvesting rules page website: <https://www.psms.org/WAMushroomRulesMay2016.pdf>

Is a Field trip the same as a foray?

No. A foray costs to attend and there is pre-registration and payment required. Dogs are usually not permitted at forays (rules of the private property owners).