

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PSMS FIELD TRIPS

Marian Maxwell

Where are the field trips listed for the membership?

We generally have at least 5 field trips for our members each mushroom season. 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.

All field trip participants must now sign the field trip sign-up 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.

Can I bring other people who are not members?

Field trips are for MEMBERS ONLY. Members of your household that wish to attend field trips should be listed as members on your PSMS profile page. It is OK to bring a single friend or extended family member once or twice to a field trip (they must sign the liability waiver on the sign-up sheet). There are some field trips like the Memorial Day field trip that are strictly MEMBERS ONLY. They will be noted as such. If an occasional single guest wishes to attend more regularly, they should join PSMS. You may not bring groups of friends or other families who are non-members. If you have any questions regarding these policies please contact Marian Maxwell at pastpsmspres@yahoo.com.

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 field trip days (between 8:00 and 9:00 am) if you want to join with others going out in a group or be led by a PSMS field trip guide. Be prepared. Go with a group: Dress appropriately. At field trips it is highly recommended that you always go out in the woods with at least one other person in case of an emergency. Be sure to have your cell phone charged and with you, and also it is very handy if you have Motorola-like two-way radios for communication in rough terrain or when out of sight with others. Remember that texting sometimes gets through when calls do not. Following these simple suggestions could actually save your life.

Guided field trips are for Members only, since space is very limited. You MUST now have an emergency whistle to go on a guided field trip.

What about food?

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, as well as set out potluck plates, utensils, etc. Complimentary coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided at about 9 am. These are paid for out of our membership dues. Potlucks are usually held sometime between 3 and 5 pm.

Remember to bring serving utensils for your potluck dish. The hosts have a limited backup supply available if needed. 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 Yahoo groups, and let the group know if you are looking for, or offering to drive, a carpool. 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 for the potluck, gas money contributions, if you are staying overnight, etc. To join the PSMS members Yahoo group, first log in to your member profile page at the www.psms.org website using the user name and password assigned to you when you joined PSMS. On top of the profile are instructions and a link for the Yahoo group. Click on the link, then click on “Join This Group.” If you are not sure what your username is, send an email to our Membership Chairperson Ann Polin at membership@psms.org. Passwords can be reset using the “Forgot your Password?” link on the sign in page. In order to be approved for the yahoo list, you must use the same email as in your PSMS profile.

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. Future decisions about dogs are up to the private property owners.

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 permits for our field trip areas.

Some areas in National Forests are posted and require a Northwest Trail Pass to hunt or park there, some do not. 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 on your own to hike or forage you may need the trail pass.

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.

To purchase National Forest or State Park permits please visit this page: <http://www.wta.org/hiking-info/passes/passes-and-permit-info/passes-and-permit-info>. Harvesting permits if required, must be obtained from the Forest Service Office in the area in which you are hunting. They cannot be purchased online. Be sure to check with the forest service ahead of time. Many forest service offices are not open weekends to issue permits, but the regulatory office that issues citations does work on the weekend.

We post a link to our compiled Washington Harvesting rules page under "Resources" on our home page at www.psms.org. After clicking on the link, scroll to the very bottom of the page for another link to Washington State Personal Use Harvesting Rules. This will open a page with areas in Washington and their corresponding requirements for personal harvesting permits.