



## Field Trip Safety & Site Protocols

*Our goal is to mitigate risk! The following are guidelines to help you do this.*

### Protocol

- Arrive at the site 20 minutes before students arrive to meet other volunteer educators & scope out the site station locations, discuss the day's agenda, safety concerns, where the first aid kit is, and emergency procedures.
- Be prepared for varying weather – dress appropriately. Provide students World Salmon Council ponchos if cold and rainy. Make sure to collect and properly dry/store ponchos when done.
- Bring drinking water.
- Protect yourself from misunderstandings—never be alone with a student!
- Leave No Trace. Practice principles of leave no trace with students.
- In the case of an emergency call 911.
  - Have one adult (volunteer/teacher) stay with the injured person. Send a selected individual to go call 911. Have another adult (volunteer/teacher) manage the rest of the group AWAY from the emergency.

### Safety

- Remind students
  - No running, stay away from steep cliffs, stay in the eyesight of a volunteer/teacher
  - We are walking on uneven terrain and to pay attention
  - Who to go to if there is an emergency or need mental health support: We support that you know what is best for you and your body, Reach out to one of us for support.
- Know the allergies of participants on your trip. Bring an epi-pen, inhaler, and any life depended medication on a field trip.
- Avoid risks such as wasps/hornets.

### Salmon Biology Station/Salmon Watching

- Please remember: Salmon are a protected species under the Endangered Species Act. Harassment of salmon of any kind is in violation of federal law and won't be tolerated! Throwing rocks, getting in the water beyond field station activities, running or jumping on the banks near the fish are all considered harassment. Students who engage in harassment will give up their opportunity to participate and will be asked to sit on the bus with a parent chaperone or teacher for the remainder of the field trip.
- Salmon are very sensitive to movement along the stream banks. To be able to see spawning fish, limit movement as much as possible during the period of observation.

- Whenever possible, view salmon from above (bridge, hillside, etc.). Be sure to use your Salmon Watch polarized glasses to cut glare on the water for optimal viewing.

### **Macroinvertebrate Sampling & Identification Station**

- Sampling should be conducted well away and downstream from salmon & redds
- Never wade into the water that is higher than the tops of your boots
- No more than 4 students in the water at one time
- Avoid fast-moving water
- Take care when walking on slippery rocks

### **Water Quality Monitoring Station**

- Wear safety glasses when breaking glasses in Dissolved Oxygen test
- All refuse water and sharps from testing must be poured and stored in the provided wastewater container – Do not toss any water into the stream – Dissolved oxygen test produces glass shards; pH test uses liquid that is hazardous to aquatic life
- Be sure to wash your hands after water quality testing to rid of residual chemicals
- Never drink river/stream/lake or any untreated water!

### **Riparian Zone Station**

- During the activity, don't let learners wander off. Beware of cliff edges and other potential hazards.

**On all stations, please be sure to bring back all equipment & leave the site cleaner than when you arrived!**