



# SWS Guidelines and Best Practices for being in the field

**Access on public property** need not be restricted in any way other than within the guidelines listed below. Permission does need to be obtained to conduct SWS activities on private property. SWS must obtain written permission from landowners of any privately owned sites where SWS plans to conduct scientific data collection, education, or stewardship activities. This can be in the form of an email or written permission. Basically, we want a paper trail if the need arises. Forms are available for your use if you choose.

You are required to get permission for the location that you are conducting the stated activity. You are not required to get permission for crossing tidelands to get to the site where the activity will take place. See details below.

## **For CROSSING PRIVATE TIDELANDS**

Access to sites that cross private tidelands will follow common use practices, including walking near waterlines and observing common courtesies.

Many beach owners and beach neighborhoods allow persons to walk across their privately-owned tidelands. These common use tidelands are accessible so long as walkers are courteous and stay away from nearby homes.

This varies, however, by neighborhoods and it is the responsibility of the Team Leads to be attuned to and aware of the level of welcome at and on the way to their activity sites.

If you are approached by a landowner and asked to leave, please be courteous and leave. Please then notify your Island Coordinator about the situation.

## **Team Lead responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the leads of each access to private property to determine arrangements they find necessary for that field activity. These include the uses of public locations as listed above, getting permission for private property use, and including the use or non-use of photography and the size of groups.

## **In Addition, the following guidelines should apply to ALL field activities.**

- Respect and Courtesy are the underlying parameters of all field activities.
- Pets, except certified service animals, should not be brought in the field.
- Please check with your team lead to see if bringing children or guests is appropriate.
- Field trip participants should be respectful to all members of the public and property.
- Field trip leads are to consider parking challenges in determination of sites.
- Field trip leads are to carry cell phones, first aid kits and Incident Report forms with them on all field activities.
- SWS activities will follow all public-health and other government guidelines as exist at the time of the trip.

**Leaders and participants** are asked to be familiar with Sound Water Stewards guidelines and information on beach visits.

**These also include** Chapter #1 "Before You Go" in *Getting to the Water's Edge*.  
"Beach Safety Checklist" document