



Trail Rules and Information for Self-Led Group Leaders

It's GREAT that you are planning to lead a group along the trails of Rowe Woods. People are most influenced by those they know and trust. Thank you for sharing your interest in nature with others, and for introducing your group to our beautiful site.

Please follow the trail rules for safety, respect for other visitors, and protection of our land:

- 1) Large groups must divide into smaller groups of 12 or less when hiking the trails. These small groups must include at least one adult as leader. This policy reduces trail impact, minimizes noise and disruptions to other hikers, and provides a better experience for all group participants.
- 2) Smoking is forbidden on our trails and in our buildings.
- 3) Please remain on the trails except on the grassy Oak Allee area and the field by the Fernwood Shelter, where grassy fields make a great spot for running games.
- 4) Do not disturb plants or wildlife. Collecting of plants, animals, or fossils is not allowed without staff permission.
- 5) To prevent erosion, stay on boardwalks and do not walk along the shoreline of streams, ponds and lakes.
- 6) Children younger than high school age must be accompanied by an adult.
- 7) Pets must be under control with a leash no longer than 6' at all times., Flexi-leashes are strongly discouraged because they often extend beyond 6' and are hard to use in a situation where control is needed. Always carry out your pet's wastes. Do not allow pets to wade or swim in ponds, lakes, or streams.
- 8) Teach children in your group to NEVER approach a strange dog without asking permission from the owner. As group leader, discourage your group from petting dogs along the trail. Friendly dogs might act unpredictably when 12 pairs of hands are reaching their way!
- 9) Picnic only at picnic tables or the porch of the visitor center and do not litter. Please pack out your trash. Picnic areas cannot be reserved, except with rental.
- 10) Feeding of turtles and fish is allowed only at Powel Crosley Lake. Feed ONLY PELLETS available at the Rowe Visitor Center. Do not feed bread or bring pellets from home. For water quality, we carefully limit the amount of food distributed. Do not feed geese or other wildlife. Feeding is permitted from April 1 – Oct 1.
- 11) Dipping Nets can only be used at Matt's Pond, and only with a permit available at the front desk.
- 12) Please note that no facilities can be reserved without additional rental payment in advance. The Whittaker library in the Rowe Visitor Center is not available for exclusive group use.