Covid-19 Protocol for NV Field Trips

Approved by the Board on October 12, 2021

Opening statement:

Nature Vancouver will be offering field trips on a limited basis at this time due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. We understand that participation in a group activity is an individual and careful decision at this time and we are modifying our field trip protocols to reduce risk. Our requirements and recommendations for these field trips have been based on the following:

• CDC BC (http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks)
• Thanks also to North Shore Hikers and GAHC (Golden Age Hiking Club) for their good examples.

Mandatory COVID-19 precautions for Field Trips

• Participants are expected to be fully vaccinated. Trip leaders may choose to require proof of vaccination.
• Participation is limited to 10 Nature Vancouver members only (including leader and co-leader.) No guests will be allowed at this time. The field trip leader may choose to set a lower limit.
• Pre-registration is mandatory for all participants.
• All field trip participants must read, sign, and submit both sides of the Release of Liability Form (which also includes the Health and Safety Self-Questionnaire) to the field trip leader in advance of the field trip. These should be filled out at home and can be either e-mailed in advance or a paper copy may be handed in at the field trip location.
• Two metre physical distancing should be maintained during the trip.
• Masks are required to be worn when physical distancing is not possible.
• Trip participants should be self-sufficient with their own mask, hand sanitizer and pen.
• No sharing food or drinks; no sharing of items like cameras, binoculars, spotting scopes or pens.
• **Carpooling** is permissible for fully vaccinated participants who are comfortable sharing a vehicle. Masks and good ventilation are recommended to minimize viral risks.

**Requirements for Field Trip leaders during Covid pandemic:**

• Meeting time and place are not to be given in field trip listings to ensure pre-registration. Setting a 48 to 72 hour cut-off before the day of the trip is recommended.
• For contact tracing, the trip leader must give all participant information (name and phone number) and waivers to Field Trip Coordinator within 24 hours after the trip.
• Visiting overcrowded sites and trails is discouraged. Remote locations should be avoided.
• All proposed field trips are to be sent to Field Trip Coordinator for review one week before they are posted, so concerns about details of the trip and how precautions will be followed can be dealt with in advance.
• Trail etiquette and rules must still be respected even with physical distancing as trail use is generally higher than in the past.
• All trip participants must follow all instructions and directives of the trip leader unless those instructions or directives contradict provincial health guidelines.