



Our Ranger led outdoor environmental activities are intended to be great fun as well as a great learning experience. Our aim is to help people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds participate in enjoyable 'hands on' activities that:

- Increase enjoyment, understanding and care for the country parks and the wider natural environment.
- Foster an awareness of sustainability through the study of habitats, plants and animals, their life processes and ecosystems and of how our own actions affect the environment in which we live.
- Support the national curriculum and encourage participation in extra curricular activities and extended services.
- Encourage healthy outdoor activity.

However; to help keep your group completely safe from the hazards posed by the natural world, please make sure that you have prepared your group with regards to the simple precautions below. We will re-enforce these messages on the day of your visit.

1. Please ensure that your group comes prepared with clothing suitable for the activity, weather and terrain they are likely to encounter.
2. Please ensure that you've made suitable First Aid provision for your group.
3. Please advise us of any special needs that individuals in your group may have of which we may need to be aware.
4. Your group will be encouraged to touch plants, soil and even certain creatures; however, we ask you to re-enforce the message that some plants are poisonous and that they should not eat or drink anything other than their own packed lunch unless given to them by a Ranger.
5. To guard against water borne diseases such as Leptospirosis (Weil's disease), it is recommended that you check if anyone in your group has an open cut on the hand or forearm as they will not be allowed direct physical contact with the pond/river water. You may wish to cover any other minor closed scratches with waterproof plasters, or latex gloves before the activity.
6. There is always the risk that children will encounter stinging or biting insects so please be aware of any particular allergies in your group.
7. Please ask your group not to pet dogs at the park and to be aware that there may be animal droppings around (including dogs).
8. Please ensure that your group wash their hands with soap and water, after the activities (especially before eating or drinking – There are toilets at the parks but you may wish to bring your own wipes etc.
9. If any one develops flu-like symptoms within two weeks of a water based activity, their doctor should be advised that the person has been in contact with pond/river water.

We are confident that if these simple precautions are followed there will be no significant risk to your group from these hugely beneficial activities.

For further information:

Visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/parks ; phone 01604 883774;
email educationrangers@northamptonshire.gov.uk