

As an independent, volunteer-based, not-for-profit, multi-partner organization and as the primary provider of outdoor education programming SWOEC Inc. supports group activities which align with our Mission Statement and which balance the dual demands of access with protection of the Shaw Woods physical environment. In order to effectively coordinate and accommodate all partners SWOEC requires that proposals for group use be approved 7 days in advance. In addition, any requested exemption from standard visitor use policy (attached as Schedule A) must contain a specific justification of need. The board wishes to make clear that there is no intention to inhibit or unnecessarily restrict the use of the property but rather to provide the best possible experience for all. No party other than SWOEC may charge a fee or receive a financial benefit for programs or activities offered on site however donations to SWOEC are gratefully accepted.

Group Usage Guidelines:

- Notification of intended use sent to (info@shawwoods.ca) attn. Chair, Trails & Site Committee including: name of the organization, contact person, numbers, timing and a general idea of the type of activity or program.
- If planned use would entail activities not permitted under Schedule A, a Special Use Request must be included in the submission.
- Confirmation that the group will respect the restriction on "off trail" usage and other restrictions set out in the various trail guides.
- Confirmation that the organizers or leaders of the group have familiarized themselves with the SWOEC mission statement (attached as schedule B) and that they will refrain from any usage or programs that would be in conflict with the spirit and intent of such mission statement.

Schedule A:

Please note that motorized vehicles, bicycles, horseback riding, overnight camping and open fires are not permitted. In order to protect sensitive habitats, visitors must remain on designated trails and dogs must be on a leash. Collection of plant material of any kind is not permitted.

Schedule B:

SWOEC Mission Statement: To sponsor an ethic of responsible stewardship, by providing educational programming and self-directed learning to educational groups, community organizations and the public at large. In conjunction with the foregoing, to teach sustainable forestry practices which manage for the social, economic and ecological values provided by forests. We support the concept of maintaining undisturbed forest areas as living examples of old growth forest available for the study and appreciation of their unique cultural and scientific values.

We understand that there can be risks associated with any recreational pursuit and, in consideration of the Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre Inc. (SWOEC Inc.) permitting us to participate in this activity we hereby release SWOEC Inc., their leaders, members and other volunteers from all claims and demands for any loss, damage or injury, however caused and whether or not contributed to by SWOEC Inc.'s negligence, in connection with participation. We understand that this assumption of risk and release includes any minors.