

SC PARC Field Ethics Agreements

SC PARC is dedicated to fostering an appreciation of South Carolina's amphibians and reptiles. During our events and outings, we expect all participants to responsibly carry out the mission of SCPARC and act as environmental stewards. Furthermore all attendees of an SC PARC event must agree and abide by the following ethics:

1. Never handle venomous snakes during SC PARC outings. Never guess on the identity of a snake. If you are not sure of the species, do not handle it.
2. Do not publicly post location information about sensitive, threatened or endangered species observed during the outing. Remove location information from photos when posting on social media platforms and set the location as obscure or private when posting on community/citizen science platforms.
3. No handling/disturbing of any gravid (or presumed gravid) reptiles or amphibians.
4. Removing any animals from any property, public or private, during or after SC PARC outings is strictly prohibited.
5. No drugs and/or alcohol while herping on SC PARC outings.
6. Do not return to a private location without explicit permission of the land owners.
7. Do not return to "herp" a public location without explicit permission of the property managers.
8. Firearms are prohibited during all SC PARC events.
9. All collected animals must be released in their original location after observation.
10. Replace flipped logs/rocks/organic material to their original positions.
11. [Sanitize equipment](#) between sites. Sanitize your hands between animals when possible.
12. No bark pulling or other permanent habitat destruction.
13. Avoid handling any animals, but especially amphibians, when wearing insect repellent. DEET and Picaridin can kill amphibians. Natural repellents can also be harmful to animals. Try to limit bug repellent use to permethrin-treated clothing.
14. Do not cause an animal harm in order to capture it (e.g. tail breaks). The animal's comfort and well-being come before human curiosity. If the situation permits, take photographs *in situ* without disturbing the animal.
15. Know your physical limits and stay within them. Swim and climb at your own risk.
16. Handle amphibians with wet hands using water from the environment in which they were found. Do not allow them to dry out.
17. Do not open any bird boxes during bird nesting season (March through September)
18. Contribute all your herp findings to the master herp list for that outing.
19. Pets are prohibited during SC PARC outings.
20. All survey materials must be removed from the property following the event or by a predetermined date agreed on by the property manager/owner

Other Resources:

[Other ethical practices.](#)

[Guidance on Information and Security for North American Turtles](#)

At any point, we reserve the right to ask you to leave an event for reasons other than those listed. Failure to comply with these ethical agreements could result in your removal from an event and loss of permission to attend future events.

Prepared by **South Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation**

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