

## Talking Points for Foray Leaders

Based on the experience of CMS and other myco-clubs, foray leaders should cover the following points in their meeting with foray participants prior to departing from the morning meeting location:

*To make your foray an enjoyable and safe experience we would like to review these simple and practical points:*

- **Carpooling** – You should leave the trailhead in the same vehicle in which you arrived. If you decide to leave in a different vehicle, advise both the driver of your arriving vehicle and the foray leader of your decision and with whom you will be leaving.
- **Buddy System** – You should have a “buddy” when foraying. Usually this is someone from your carpool. Stay together and look out for each other. Always remain within sight of each other. Please, don’t go off on your own.
- **Signals** – Whistles will be used as a signal among foray participants. These signals are:
  - 1 whistle – “I’m over here”
  - 2 whistles – Acknowledges that you heard the person whistle
  - 3 whistles – “I’ve found a mushroom. Come look!”
- **Foray Environment** – Review the terrain that will be found at the foray location and suggest less strenuous routes or trails as alternatives for some foray participants. Review any potential hazards – snakes, bears, steep slopes, lightning, etc. – that might be encountered. Please do not disturb any wildlife.
- **Be Prepared for Foraying** – Emphasize that everyone should be properly equipped for the conditions to be encountered, including water and food and appropriate footwear and clothing.
- **Re-Grouping at Trailhead** – Tell participants that at the trailhead you will announce a time for everyone to re-assemble either at the trailhead or some other designated location when it is time for lunch or before moving to another foray location.
- **Changing Your Plans** – Please let the foray leader know if you plan to leave the foray before it is over, or of any other change in your foray plans. This is to ensure maximum enjoyment of the foray experience for all.