

Code of Conduct for Nature Journalers

Why a code of conduct for nature journalers?

Nature journaling brings people with diverse skills and experiences into nature and wild spaces who engage in new activities. There are specific codes of conduct for scientists, naturalists, photographers and artists. Place- specific rules and laws are in force across the world for public nature spaces. These codes guide us in interacting with nature in a respectful way. They also prevent us from unknowingly causing harm.

When we nature journal:

- We may stay in one place for longer periods of time than when we pass through on walks. This can result in different types and scale of harm to wildlife and habitats.
- We may use art supplies that might be harmful to the environment, if not handled properly.
- We may not know what are acceptable practices in natural spaces or in art

We want to do the right things. How do we know what that means in practice?

What is in the best interests of the place (habitat, wildlife, other people)?

What is in the best interests of the connected places, people and things?

What's respect in practice? What's right? What's legal?

We are role models.

**We can choose to set an example of
how to be an ethical nature journaler.**

“As we nurture nature, nature nurtures us.” John Muir Laws

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Respect guides me in awareness and practice

I strive to respect:

1. Wildlife and Wildness
2. Environment and Habitats
3. Myself and Other People
4. The Nature Journal Experience
5. How I Learn and Grow

I strive to express my respect practically in my actions. I ask the following questions to figure out my responsibilities.

1. How am I in this space?

What's my responsibility (do right, intervene &/or report wrongs) when:

- I am alone. I am a group member. I am the group leader.
- What is the purpose of the group: getting to a destination; focusing on an aspect of wildlife such as birds or habitat; nature journaling.

2. Who am I in this place?

- Am I a resident, frequent visitor or tourist?
- Does my presence here displace or disadvantage others?
- Does my presence support the exclusion of others? Does it benefit the environment and communities around the space?
- Do I know local customs?
- Who walked here before me? What is the history of the space? I can learn about the human history of spaces and respect the people associated with them. Ask questions: have communities been displaced or otherwise disadvantaged?

Now that I have figured out my place in this space, I can look at practices.