

Extract from NJ Code of Conduct - Relationship with Place

Questions to ask on arrival, during and after nature journaling session

- What is in the best interests of the place (habitat, wildlife, wildness, 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?

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.

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, ways of being and respecting?
- 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?

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.

Putting Respect into Practice

- I put nature first, above my wishes. My experiences are a privilege; the wellbeing of the wildlife and habitats are essential for the planet.
- I observe with minimum interference. When recording observations, I consider how my behaviour may be affecting wildlife and habitat. If in doubt, I err on the side of caution.

Reflection at end of session while out and/or back at home

I was surprised by ...

..... was awe inspiring!

Questions I still have are

I used to think _____ but now _____

I learned something that was not a fact (a skill, new way of looking at things, etc.)

I want to find out more about ...

Next time, I want to (do, think, observe)