

Event Information for Parents/Guardians

Wet Weather

We will try to run an event whatever the weather. Sometimes activities can be adapted or moved inside. Children should come prepared for all weather conditions. If a 'turn-up' event is cancelled due to the weather this will be updated on our website on or before the day of the event.

Cancellations

All events require a minimum number to make them viable. If we have to cancel an event we will give a full refund. If you are unable to attend an event please let us know as soon as possible. A refund will be given with at least 72 hours notice.

Dropping off and picking up

For events where children are left in our care - please bring your child to the Information Point in the Visitor Centre a few minutes before the start time for the activity. This will also be the picking up point at the end of the activity. Children should not leave until the person collecting them has arrived. For dropping off and picking up, you have 15 minutes before a charge is due. For events where parents stay for the event - normal car charges apply.

Event Leaders

Events are run by the Rangers from East Dorset District Council. All Rangers are first aid qualified, have completed DBS checks, adhere to the Christchurch and East Dorset Councils child protection policy and are educated to degree standard or equivalent in a countryside subject. All events are risk assessed. Where stated, other events are led by third party instructors or companies.

Photographs

On some events we take photographs which may be used for publicity purposes. If you have any reservations about your child having their photograph taken then please let us know.

Behaviour

A reasonable standard of behaviour is expected of all children. If any child's behaviour is considered to compromise the safety of other participants, or prevents the Rangers from maintaining the recommended adult : child supervision ratios, then the child may be removed from the event and asked to be collected and taken home.

Health Risks in the Countryside

We do not want to scare you; the risks of picking up an infection or disease from being in the countryside are very rare, but we do recommend a few simple precautions: all cuts and grazes should be covered with a waterproof plaster, essential for all activities involving water e.g. pond dipping. We also recommend hand washing at the end of all activities.

Children who have been carrying out activities in long grass or in the Forest should check for ticks during the visit and also at the end of day. Ticks are small, black, spider-like creatures, less than 5mm long. They attach themselves to the skin to take a blood meal and then fall off; you will not feel them on the skin.

Typically they crawl over the skin before attaching themselves in a dark place so regular checking of the skin will usually remove them. Some ticks carry bacteria that cause Lyme Disease; fortunately it is still a rare disease in the UK.

Accidents and Illness

All Rangers are first aid qualified, and will treat minor injuries accordingly. Should a more serious accident occur requiring hospital treatment we will call an ambulance immediately and at the same time contact you. Please ensure that the Rangers are made aware of any medical conditions or allergies from which your child suffers. Should your child become ill during the event we will phone you to ask you to come and collect them.

