

Clarification of responsibilities for Ranger-led Visits



The Rangers at Moors Valley Country Park want you to have an enjoyable and memorable visit and to help you with this please take a few minutes to read the following guidelines designed for visiting groups. They indicate the responsibilities and expectations for both group leaders visiting the park and the Rangers here at Moors Valley.

Moors Valley Staff Responsibilities

A member of staff will meet you at the Information Point in the Visitor Centre at the start of your day. During your visit they will co-ordinate the activities as timetabled and advise the group leader of any known hazards. All equipment is provided for Ranger led activities.

All Moors Valley Rangers are first aid qualified and carry supplies during all activities, although the prime responsibility lies with the group leader.

Group Leaders Responsibilities - *Before your visit*

To ensure a happy and safe visit, group leaders are asked to make a preliminary visit. This is essential for your first visit and for this, parking is free and a Ranger can meet you to discuss programmes, group requirements and any questions you may have. Please phone to book your pre-visit.

Groups visiting Moors Valley are advised to make their own risk assessments. All of the Ranger led activities have risk assessments prepared for them, if you would like to see any of these please ask on booking. If you would like advice on preparing your risk assessment please ask on booking.

Group Leaders Responsibilities - *During Your Visit*

On the day of the visit group leaders will be asked to produce a copy of their signed booking form. This confirms that the group leader in charge on the day has read, understood and agreed to these guidelines and the 'information for group visits' .

Please remember there are no litter bins at Moors Valley. Please come prepared to take all your rubbish away with you.

This information includes health risks in the countryside and we would like to bring to your attention the possibility of students picking up ticks. Whilst the Rangers will endeavour to carry out a tick check throughout and at the end of the session, it is advisable that group leaders also carry out checks during the day. Ticks are small black spider like creatures, less than 5mm long. They attach themselves to the skin to take a blood meal then fall off; you will not feel them on the skin. Some ticks carry a bacterium that causes Lyme Disease, which can affect the skin or more seriously the nervous system. Fortunately it is still a rare disease in the UK, however tick numbers have increased in recent years. Regular checking of the skin will usually remove them and it is recommended that students and adults taking part in activities in the forest or meadow wear long trousers. If you would like further information on ticks and Lyme Disease, please ask on booking.

Weather conditions can change quickly and the woodland and meadow can become very wet and muddy. It is the group leader's responsibility to ensure that students are wearing appropriate footwear and clothing. May we also take this opportunity to remind you that with summer approaching, we recommend that students cover their skin up as much as possible, wear a sun hat and use sun cream.

Group leaders and adult assistants are expected to take an active part in the visit and will remain responsible for the group's behaviour and discipline at all times. Moors Valley staff have the right to exclude from the visit anyone who is not properly equipped or fails to comply with the above conditions.

