

Procedures

The following addresses the most commonly asked questions regarding research and site use on lands administered by Southern Illinois University's Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center.

Touch of Nature's research and site use program is focused on providing educational opportunities and beneficial experiences to University departments while managing the land in stewardship for present and future generations. Touch of Nature belongs to Southern Illinois University and the State of Illinois and following these rules will help ensure that cultural and natural resources are maintained for everyone to experience.

General Rules and Regulations

- All research projects, classes and other programs are to be approved by the Touch of Nature Environmental Center Director before research or use begins.
- Fill out all the necessary forms provided by Touch of Nature and locate on a map where research or use will take place and for how long.
- Do not litter or dump household, commercial or hazardous waste.
- Do not create a risk or public disturbance (Touch of Nature offers educational programs year round).
- Do not create a hazard and/or a nuisance.
- Do not deface, remove or destroy property, structures, plants, rocks, minerals, etc.
- Replace any natural materials to the places they were taken when projects or research are complete.
- Do not violate state laws regarding the use and possession of alcohol.
- Weapons are not permitted at Touch of Nature.
- REMOVE all items that were used to collect data once the research or project has been completed.

Motor Vehicles

It is your responsibility to know where, when, and by what means (motorcycle, ATV, etc.) you may travel on state lands. Your cooperation keeps roads and trails open.

Except in special designated areas, it is prohibited to:

- Operate motor vehicles off established roads and trails.
- Drive cross-country and/or hill climb.
- Make new roads/trails.
- Operate motor vehicles in a reckless or negligent manner.
- Cause any environmental damage.
- Operate ANY motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Operate motor vehicles without proper head and tail lights at night.
- Violate any state vehicle laws.

Use Authorization or Permits

As states in the General Rules, all commercial and organized events/activities/research/classes require use authorizations.

Fire Prevention

Within Touch of Nature, you may build a fire only in a stove, grill or designated fire ring. **DO NOT** construct fire rings or fire pits. Touch of Nature land managers only may construct new fire rings or pits. All campfires must be supervised at all times and be properly extinguished.

Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA)

Anything over 100 years old is considered a cultural artifact and therefore its removal or destruction without authorization is prohibited. No surface collection or disturbance of any cultural materials is allowed at Touch of Nature. This includes surface collection of arrowheads. All surface collection, disturbance, excavation and/or digging for artifacts are prohibited.

Firewood Cutting

The collection of firewood is prohibited. Touch of Nature staff will handle all firewood collection.

State Laws

All state and county laws are enforceable on Touch of Nature property. These include, but are not limited to:

- All state Game and Fish regulations.
- Possession of alcohol by minors.
- All state motor vehicle laws.

Enjoy your opportunities at Touch of Nature.