

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Thank you for your interest in Sequoia Parks Conservancy Field Institute programming. Please read the following terms and conditions carefully. Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) makes every effort to accommodate visitors during extreme or unforeseen conditions.

**RIGHTS:** SPC reserves the right to change the itinerary to best suit the physical fitness of participants and their interests while maintaining the highest level of safety based on weather and trail conditions. SPC will change itineraries in consultation with participants.

SPC reserves the right to cancel a day hike or tour up to 72 hours (three days) in advance due to low attendance. SPC reserves the right to cancel a backpacking trip up to three weeks in advance due to low attendance.

**GENERAL SAFETY:** You are responsible for your own safety. Cold temperatures, ice, uneven ground, wild animals, biting insects, and changing weather all pose dangers. Landslides occur, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards with campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions. SPC and the National Park Service work to reduce risks, but your personal safety is solely your responsibility: Stay alert, read warnings, and ask your tour leader for advice.

**PARKS WEATHER AND TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Weather and trail conditions are variable year-round. This itinerary accommodates for most seasonal conditions; however, there could be unforeseen conditions for which we cannot plan such as weather, unexpected road closures, etc. Please come prepared for variable conditions by dressing in layers and bringing a waterproof jacket. On the day of the tour, if SPC needs to change the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances, SPC will work to assure that participants' visits are memorable and safe.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** You may cancel for any reason up to 72 hours (three days) prior to your tour, minus a 10% cancellation fee. Full refunds will be issued by the SPC if the Generals Highway has been closed or an official trail closure has been issued by the National Park Service. SPC will attempt to contact participants as soon as possible in the event of such a closure. Participants can check current park road conditions by dialing 559-565-3341 (press 1, 1).

**REFUND POLICY:** There are not refunds for missed tours.

**RECOMMENDED WEAR:** Choose clothing and shoes to match the weather and level of activity. Participants should always wear closed-toed shoes with sturdy tread and ankle support. We recommend that novice participants bring trekking poles. Stay informed about the weather before your tour date and wear clothing in layers. Sunglasses, a shade hat, or a warm cap are appropriate items to pack. Consider carrying items in a water resistant bag.

**FOOD & WATER:** You must carry your own food and water SPC recommends 1-2 liters of water per person. Not all trailheads have water spigots – *please bring your own water.*

**COMFORT & BATHROOMS:** Use the restroom before the start of your tour. There may not be bathrooms away from developed areas. Biting insects, dust, and bright sun are several things you may encounter in a national park; prepare yourself based on your personal capacity for unfavorable conditions.

**STEWARDSHIP:** For the duration of your trip, you and your vehicle will be in active American black bear territory. Remove food, beverage containers, garbage, ice chests, and any scented items from your car before leaving it unattended. The National Park supplies bear resistant food lockers for free at most trailheads and parking areas. Please help keep our parks beautiful: don't leave trash or food scraps along the trail.

**INSURANCE:** Participants provide their own health and auto insurance as neither is provided by SPC or NPS. SPC does not reimburse participants for any losses incurred. SPC strongly advises guests to consider trip insurance.

**PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE:** By participating in any SPC program, you are consenting to allow SPC to use your name, likeness photograph, digital image, or video taken during these activities to promote SPC activities or to create a sales item.

**FEEDBACK:** In appreciation of your guide's excellent service and knowledge, you may 'tip' the parks at any visitor center, make a donation to the Sequoia Parks Conservancy, or write a letter of appreciation to Executive Director, 47050 Generals Highway #10, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Thank you again for your interest in SPC programming. If you have other feedback or suggestions, feel free to use the address above or contact the Field Institute office at (559) 565-4251.