

Kids 'n Nature

Safety Information

Safety Concerns

Principals and teachers sometimes have questions about the following safety concerns, so we have provided you with the following to keep you and your group informed. Our staff will encourage all visitors to stay on the trails, point out hazards along the trails and avoid walking visitors through areas with long grasses and Poison Ivy.

TICKS

Ticks are members of the spider family that feed on blood from living bodies. They are found in long grasses, brush or leaves where animals live. Ticks travel by crawling or hitchhiking on animals – they do not fly or jump.

There are many different species of ticks and not all of them carry the bacteria for Lyme disease. The most common tick you may encounter is the American Dog Tick, which does NOT carry the bacteria. The only tick that carries the disease in Ontario is the Black-legged (or Deer) Tick.



Black-legged Tick

Tick Bite Prevention

When you are out in tick habitat, you can better protect yourself by taking a few precautions:

- Wear long sleeves and tuck your pants into your socks
- Wear light-coloured clothing so you can detect ticks before they attach
- Use insect repellent containing “DEET” – use manufacturer’s instructions

After you have been in tick habitat, you should:

- Conduct a tick check. Look on your clothes and body. Pay close attention to your scalp, behind the ears, neck, arm pits, navel, groin and behind the ears.
- Check your clothing for ticks after exposure to possible tick areas
 - If you discover a tick remove it and bag it. Place clothes in hot dryer for 1 hour
- Shower within 2 hours of being in risk areas

Tick Removal

If you find a tick, follow these steps:

- Use fine point tweezers
- Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible
- Gently pull straight out
- Disinfect the bite area
- See a medical professional as soon as possible to seek advice for treatment
- Watch for symptoms (fever, headaches, stiff neck, jaw pain, sore muscles, bulls-eye rash) and seek medical attention if you feel unwell or if you cannot safely remove the tick



Do not:

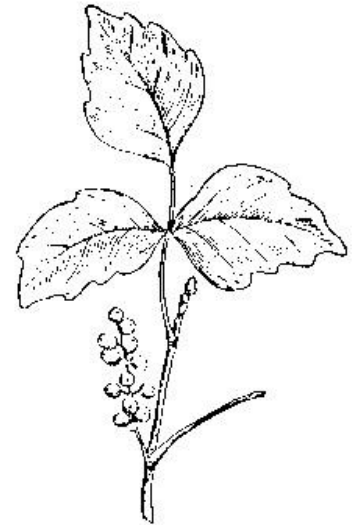
- Grasp tick around bloated belly
- Use a match, heat, Vaseline, essential oils or chemicals
- Twist when pulling out the tick

Following these simple suggestions you can have a safe and enjoyable time exploring Presqu'île. For more information, please consult the following website:
www.ontario.ca/page/lyme-disease

POISON IVY

Poison Ivy is a natural part of the ecosystem at Presqu'île, providing food for animals and stabilizing soil in open areas. It typically grows along the edges of trails and for that reason we urge visitors to stay on the trails.

Learning to recognize Poison Ivy can save you from a lot of discomfort. Each leaf has three leaflets, the centre one with a longer stalk. It tends to have shiny, droopy looking leaves and can be a small plant or a vine. Leaves can be reddish in colour in spring and fall. It doesn't always have berries, but when it does they are cream-coloured, waxy looking and in dense clusters along the stem. All parts of the plant contain oil that if it comes in contact with skin can result in a very itchy rash. This oil can be transmitted to you from shoes and clothing.



If you think you have come in contact with Poison Ivy:

- Wash the infected area with soapy cold water. Do this as soon as possible to prevent the oils from soaking in the skin any farther than they may have already.
- Do not rub/scratch the skin or infected area too hard. This can cause secondary infection.
- You can use a towel with ice cubes wrapped in it on the area. The coolness will help reduce the pain and itching. Then let the area air dry.
- Use calamine lotion to reduce itching and redness.

For more information, please consult the following website:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/99-015.htm>

FALL WATERFOWL HUNT

Controlled waterfowl hunting occurs at Presqu'île from late September to late December on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Hunting occurs in specified areas along the marsh and High Bluff and Gull Islands. Hunters must stay in their hunting blinds. The park is still open to visitors on these days and school groups stay well away from hunting activities. If this is an issue for your school, please schedule your visit for a Tuesday or Thursday. In-class visits from our interpreter can be made on hunt days.