



Fairfield Osborn Preserve Sonoma State University

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Policies concerning Preserve visits

Fairfield Osborn Preserve is a protected natural area that is a facility of Sonoma State University. Its purpose is to promote greater understanding and appreciation of nature and the importance of preserving and protecting the natural environment. The University is committed to environmentally responsible and safe stewardship of the land and to maximizing the safety of Preserve visitors.

Purpose of this document

This document explains the circumstances under which individuals may visit the Preserve. Most guidelines described here have been in place since the Preserve was established. They promote sustainable use of the facilities and land and ensure the safety of all visitors and Preserve users. To assure that all visitors' location on site is known in case of emergency, all visitors will be required to sign-in on arrival (*see below*).

What uses of the Preserve are permitted?

The Preserve is available for educational and research purposes by approved visitors. Many individuals visit the Preserve to participate in educational programs or conduct research. Faculty members at Sonoma State University and other educational institutions are encouraged to visit the Preserve to promote its use in education and research. University staff members come to the Preserve to help maintain facilities and trails, and University police regularly patrol the premises. Members of the University community are welcome to visit the Preserve for scheduled hikes and events.

Some authorized individuals may visit the Preserve to help maintain its facilities and trails. Current Preserve staff members and volunteers may visit the Preserve with small groups of guests. Members of the general public may only visit the Preserve on guided hikes at scheduled times. Preserve facilities may be used by members of the Sonoma State University community and other groups for meetings.

When is the Preserve available for visits and use?

Visits are allowed between sunrise and sunset. Exceptions to these hours can only occur with written approval of the Director.

What procedures must Preserve visitors follow?

1. All visitors must contact the Preserve (email preferred, fairfield.osborn@sonoma.edu; or phone 707-795-5069) 24 hrs before arrival and leave a message that includes the following information: name, arrival date and time, number of individuals coming with you, and purpose of your visit.
2. When visitors arrive at the Preserve, they must first go to the Education Center and sign in by the western entrance building. Sign-up sheets will ask for name, arrival time, names of guests, purpose of visit, and license plate numbers of vehicles parked at the Preserve. If the Preserve office is open, the sign up sheet will be located inside.
3. Vehicles must be parked inside the main parking lot near the Education Center. In special cases and with prior approval of the Preserve Director, individuals may park in the lower lot after signing in.

4. When the Preserve is closed, the gate should be locked at all times. Visitors should use the gate combination to let themselves in and must lock the gate behind themselves upon arrival and departure. The gate may not be left open and unattended, or hanging open with the combination visible. Visitors must not disclose the gate combination to individuals who are not authorized to enter.

What other guidelines must Preserve visitors follow?

1. Animals, plants, rocks and human artifacts are not to be disturbed or removed unless the activity is part of an approved research or trail maintenance project. Research applications may be downloaded from the Preserve web site and must be approved before work commences.
2. Visitors are encouraged to bring water and may bring food, as long as all refuse is packed out at departure.
3. Use of alcoholic beverages on site is not permitted unless it is a part of an event that has been approved by the Director and conforms to University policies concerning alcohol consumption.
4. Smoking, use of illegal drugs, and fires of any kind are not permitted.
5. Visitors are not allowed near the hazardous landslide area. Each visitor must take appropriate precautions to avoid injury on unstable rocks in the creek bed and to avoid stinging or biting animals (especially bees, wasps, spiders, scorpions, snakes). Poison oak, stinging nettle, and other plants that cause allergic responses are common at the Preserve and visitors are responsible for avoiding them.

Additional responsibilities of Preserve visitors

1. If you encounter a situation that is not an emergency but about which you feel someone should be notified (cows on the Preserve, minor property damage, suspicious activities etc.), please call the Preserve office at 795-5069 and leave a detailed message.
2. If you encounter any situation that requires immediate attention (fire, criminal activity, major injury, major property damage, etc.) and no one is around to help, please call SSU Campus Police at 664-2143.
3. You must submit one signed copy of this document to Preserve management before your next visit to the Preserve

I have read this document and I understand that I may lose my visiting privileges if I do not abide by its procedures and guidelines. Please address any questions or comments to Preserve Director Dr. Nathan Rank (rank@sonoma.edu)

Printed Name

Signature

Date