

Field Safety Basics at the Harvard Forest: Visiting Researchers

Have a plan

- Navigation – maps, compass, GPS
- Be aware of severe storms – check the weather radar (storm tracks typically move west to east, or sometimes south to north)
- Cell phone reception is not reliable
- Harvard Forest staff are typically on-site M-F, 9:00 – 4:30
- If you are working on Harvard Forest land, bring a radio
- Don't work alone, or if you must, tell someone your plan: where, when do you expect to return, and check in when you return.
- Pack a small first-aid kit

Prevent tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease

- Cover up: wear long sleeves and pants; light colors make ticks easier to spot; tuck pants into socks
- Use repellent
- Check yourself for ticks daily
- More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickbornediseases/tick-bites-prevention.html>

Be aware of poison ivy

- Poison ivy can be a small plant or a climbing vine
- If you make contact: wash clothes in hot water; wash skin with detergent or poison ivy soap



Wildlife

- Never approach or feed wildlife; give animals lots of space
- Report unusual behavior (for example, an animal that approaches you)

Hunting season

- Although hunting some animals happens all year, deer season (October – December) is the main time hunters are encountered. Hunting season dates for Massachusetts: <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/summary-hunting-season-dates/>. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.
- Hunting is allowed on most of Harvard Forest land
- During deer hunting season, please wear blaze orange.

Field etiquette

- Stay on trails
- Pack out trash (seal toilet paper in a plastic bag)
- Be aware that Harvard Forest hosts hundreds of research projects; avoid walking through areas with flagging, tags, and other infrastructure.