



## Georgia Nature Photographers Association

### Field Trip Safety Tips

- 1. Know where you're going and tell someone else.** If you're headed out to do a shoot, make sure to have a plan, detailing where you will be, the route you plan to take, your expected departure and return times. This way, if you get lost or hurt and don't make it home, someone will know where to look for you.
- 2. Take a cell phone with you.** While there's no guarantee your cell phone will work everywhere, there's no denying that cell phones have helped save people's lives in emergency situations. Activate your cell phone location app. If you're going somewhere really remote, consider renting a satellite phone.
- 3. Pay attention to your surroundings.** It's easy to become distracted when shooting. Keep one eye open. Make sure to note suspicious people and circumstances. Watch your back. Better yet, have someone with you who can watch it for you.
- 4. Dress appropriately.** If you're going into serious inclement weather, particularly if you're going somewhere extremely cold or hot, dress in layers and also make sure you have good shoes, socks and basic protection.
- 5. Know the area.** Do not go into valleys or canyons if there is rain in the area or the hills above. Study topographical maps of the area for information on water flow and safe areas during flash flood conditions. If you plan to be in higher elevations know the signs and symptoms of altitude sickness.
- 6. Monitor the weather.** Weather conditions can change rapidly. Before heading out get a full weather report for the duration of your trip. Not only for the immediate area but also within a fifty mile radius.
- 7. Provision for emergencies.** Bring LOTS of water when you go out shooting. Bring a small blanket, knife, flashlight, compass, matches, signal flare/glow stick, maps and food for at least two days when you're in the field. Know basic first aid and bring a small first aid kit. Preparing for the worst means you can relax and enjoy your shoot knowing that just in case, you're covered.
- 8. Information on transportation to the field trip site.** Caravanning to the field trip site location is not recommended. This is for your own safety and the safety of others in your chapter. Field trip coordinators will provide detailed directions and times to the site location for all who register. If a member(s) should elect to meet with others at a predetermined location to share the ride or follow each other to the designated field trip location they do so at their own risk/liability and GNPA will not be responsible for this action.

**These are just eight basic tips. The most important tip is to use common sense and be mindful of your own safety. YOU are responsible for your safety, so take it seriously.**