



**Western Washington
Investigators of Paranormal
Science (WWIPS)
Member Handbook**

Welcome to the Team

Welcome and thank you for being a part of the WWIPS paranormal family!

We are committed to using scientific methods to research any and all things paranormal. To meet this goal, we put guidelines in place from the beginning of the process to the end. This ensures the team's credibility as professional investigators as well as the integrity of any potential.

As with any organization, the way we do things and the rules that guide us are fluid. So, this guide will be updated periodically and distributed at team meetings which are held quarterly. These terms are non-negotiable and membership in this group is dependent on a willingness to follow the rules including signing an agreement that you will do so.

Many of the rules are for safety and many of them are to make sure that our group is viewed by the public and our clients in an ethical and credible way. The things we say and the way we act in public and in front of a client can either help us do many more investigations in the future or make things so difficult that no one will trust us on their property or call our credibility into question. With that in mind, these rules will be strictly enforced by the investigation lead assigned to the location you are investigating.

Remember, these are to keep you safe and promote equality within the group. The best way to be part of the team is to be respectful of each other. We are all in this for the same reason and to hopefully have fun doing it.

WWIPS

General Group Rules

1. No one will be excluded from consideration to join the group or investigation based on race, creed or religion, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, military status, political affiliation, or the presence of disability. The only thing required for membership is to be willing to obey the rules of our group and have an open mind to all things paranormal.
2. There will be no discussion or mention of any kind pertaining to politics, religion, or topics that discriminate in any way a person or persons inside or out of this group. This rule is to make everyone feel welcome in the group and to protect the public image and credibility of the group as a whole.
3. Bullying of any kind, at any time, will not be tolerated. Any infraction of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the group.
4. Language: We all use “colorful language”; some of us more than others. That being said, let’s try to keep it to a minimum. When representing the group at public functions such as conferences, please try very hard. Whether we are at an investigation or at a public function, we should conduct ourselves in a courteous and professional manner. When things go bump in the dark, we are likely to say something colorful.
 - a. If language is used in any way that is directed at an individual in an aggressive manner and/or is in any way bullying, this will result in immediate dismissal from the group.
5. Any item with the group name and/or logo is, in effect, a walking billboard for our group and a great way to advertise and get people to ask questions. Please, if you wear any team gear in public, remember the group rules as stated above. When wearing this shirt anywhere, you are representing the group as a whole. Conduct yourself in such a way that will not reflect negatively upon WWIPS. What qualifies as negatively representing the group? Refer to the rules above. Any infraction of this rule will result in a one time warning. A second infraction will result in suspension from the next investigation. A third time will result in dismissal from the group.

Investigation Rules

1. No one outside of approved group members will be allowed on an investigation. This includes family members. This is for everyone's safety and especially that of non-group members. Anyone wishing to join an investigation must have the approval of the Team Manager.
2. In the absence of the Location or Team Manager, whoever is designated the lead investigator is the one in charge of the investigation. Please defer to them before, during, and after any investigation.
3. There will be no alcohol or drugs of any kind allowed during an investigation. This includes showing up to an investigation under the influence of any mind altering substances. If you are taking any medication that is in any way mind altering, please inform the lead investigator prior to the investigation and stay home. This is for your safety as well as the safety of everyone on the investigation.
4. If you are sick, please inform the lead investigator prior to the investigation and stay home.
5. Please show up for an investigation wearing the appropriate clothing including the team shirt. Many locations may require that heating is turned off to establish a reasonable frequency baselines and will require warmer clothing. You will be briefed on location conditions prior to the investigation.
6. The following is a list of things that can interfere with our listening devices and frequency detectors and should be taken care of prior to an investigation: gum chewing, loose zippers or metallic objects such as buckles or bracelets, and anything that makes noise when you move.
7. Please no perfume or cologne though deodorant is appreciated.
8. Cell phones should be in airplane mode with the sound off and reminder alarms disabled. If you have to make a call to check in with someone, please leave the location and remember to put your phone back in airplane mode before re-entering the location.

9. Please use flashlights when and where appropriate to move about during an investigation. Please limit the use of your flashlight when user operated infrared cameras are present. Before turning on your flashlight, quietly, but loud enough for those around you to hear, inform everyone that you are going to do so. When you are finished moving, turn the flashlight off. If possible, limit light to red lens flashlights to lessen the effect on night vision.
10. Always inform team members of your intent to conduct a recording session. Please be conscious of any team member recording in a location. If you are not conducting a recording session, but are in another room investigating, please limit conversation to the investigation at hand and speak in a quiet manner to avoid being mistaken for an anomalous sound on the recording.
11. Always use your normal speaking voice! Never whisper while a recorder or camera audio is running. Whispers, or even low voices, can be easily forgotten and marked as anomalous during evidence review.
12. During recording sessions, please remain quiet between questions for approximately 10 seconds to allow time for any response(s).
13. If you are not a designated tech person, please do not touch any of the equipment. If there is a problem with a piece of equipment, inform the lead investigator or a designated technician.
14. Never go anywhere alone! There will be no less than two people in the area being investigated at any time. This is for your safety as well as the integrity of any evidence.
15. The two most important pieces of safety equipment are a flashlight and a handheld radio. No one is to enter a location without one of each.
16. No one is to leave or enter the location, except during breaks, without first informing the team via radio.
17. The Lead Investigator will provide a safety briefing before each investigation. Please observe all safety rules of the investigation given during the safety briefing. Every location is different and has their own unique challenges. First Aid kits will be located at the base location.

Investigation Essentials

Here are some basic guidelines and things to remember before going on an investigation.

Going into an allegedly haunted location can be unsettling. If you believe you need to protect yourself, please do so prior to the investigation. You may bring an item with you for protection as long as it does not interfere with the cameras, audio equipment, or detection devices.

Before any investigation, it is best to familiarize yourself with the location so that you can have the proper equipment including any clothing or overnight gear. The following list is equipment that you will be required to bring for yourself for a standard investigation.

- A flashlight or light source of some kind, preferable with a red lens.
- A snack and any drink that you will need to keep the tummy rumbling from interfering with sound equipment. These recorders are very sensitive!
- Sturdy, comfortable, quiet shoes such as sneakers that don't squeak.
- Dust mask or respirator depending on your level of sensitivity to dust and/or molds.
- Any paranormal equipment that is relevant to the type of investigation.
- Your eyes, ears, intuition, and an open mind.

Cryptids and Bigfoot Investigation Guidelines

- ★ Let someone reliable know where you are going and how long you expect to be gone. Show this person on the map where you will be investigating and where camp is located.
- ★ Never go alone. Take at least one person with you. This is not only for safety reasons, but it's always good to have more than one pair of eyes and ears.
- ★ Be prepared for any weather. This not only includes clothing but your shelter as well. Make sure that it is rain proof and that you have a warm sleeping bag.
- ★ Be prepared for anything
- ★ Be prepared to spend more than one day
- ★ Recommended reading: "The Sasquatch Seeker's Field Manual" by David George Gordon. ISBN (paperback) 978-1-59485-941-0 (ebook) 978-1-59485-942-7

Other than the necessary camping equipment, it is a very good idea to take the following items in order to gather evidence.

- A field journal to document evidence and something to write with
- A good still or video camera and extra batteries and memory cards or film
- An audio recording device and spare batteries for it
- A handheld GPS device for marking location
- Binoculars or a spotting scope
- Magnifying glass for examining evidence
- A tape measure of at least twenty five feet
- A harmonica or a musical instrument you are familiar with

Equipment supplied by the Team:

- Ziplock style storage bags of varying sizes including gallon size
- Disposable medical gloves for handling evidence
- Letter sized envelopes
- Tweezers
- Casting medium such as fast setting plaster and tools to mix it with
- Non reactive plastic jars
- Ethanol
- Trashbags

Footnotes

If you need help understanding any part of this Handbook, please reach out to info@wwips.org

Consequences for negligence of rules included in this Handbook, will be enforced at the discretion of the lead investigator. You may be asked to leave if you put anyone including yourself at risk of injury.

Remember, the first objective of an investigation is to BE SAFE! We are here to conduct scientific research and help our clients but we can only do that if we're healthy and whole.