



Kanawha State Forest and You

Is Your Behavior Harmful, Causing No Harm, or Helpful?
Feeding wildlife	Alters wildlife foraging success and often results in harm to the feeder.		
Bird watching, plant identification, and photography		No harm to wildlife, and these behaviors enhance your observation skills and appreciation of wildlife.	
Volunteering on an invasive species weed-pulling crew			Ensures continued existence of rare plants and dominance of native plants.
Helping with habitat restoration projects			Restores useful living space in a formerly damaged area, such as a coal mine entrance or a gas wellhead.
Moving small rocks and sticks from the trail		No harm to wildlife, and may keep hikers from tripping.	
Picking wildflowers	Takes away food from pollinators and decreases the next generation of plants.		
Steering clear of snakes			Snakes are important predators, without which the ecosystem would be out of balance. Do not poke, catch, or kill them.
Handling salamanders and frogs	Removes protective slime from their skins, making them susceptible to infections by fungi and viruses.		
Leaving baby animals alone			Chances are that Mom or both parents are close-by keeping watch over their young. You just don't see them.
Littering	Wildlife may eat or get entangled in items you leave behind, and other people don't want to see your trash.		
Leashing your pet at all times and cleaning-up after them			This will keep wildlife, your pet, and other people safe from one another.
Traveling off trail	Disturbs habitat, especially since off-trail behavior is often mimicked by others.		
Visiting the Forest with friends		No harm, unless your group is too large and noisy, frightening wildlife. Share your adventures without disturbing the Forest and other people.	

“Take some time to walk and wander. Attune your ears and gaze in wonder. Observe the wren, In peaceful fen; Then take some time to sit and ponder.”

—From “There and Back Again” by Kenneth Long.

Kanawha State Forest serves many people in many ways. It is a place to watch lightning bugs, ride bikes, perform scientific research, hunt game, listen to birds singing, walk dogs, smell flowers, grill out, hold reunions, campout, catch crawdads, study for tests, take photos, learn history, jog, hike, ride a horse, and VOLUNTEER !

Yes, that’s right, many individuals and groups volunteer their time and talents to help the Forest staff fulfill their missions, by completing a great variety of projects. Do you sight in your gun at the range? Why not give some time to range clean-up efforts? Are you a student who visited the Forest for scientific study? Why not help lead nature education events held throughout the year? You hiked from a parking place to this sign, so how about joining in on trail maintenance efforts?

Everybody, including you, has talents. Visit the office or find the Kanawha State Forest Foundation on the web and offer your talents and time. You will receive in joy at least as much as you give of your time and talents.

