

Organisation of Foray Teams

Foray Leader

The Foray Leader is in charge of getting together the organisational aspects of the foray, arranging any permits, transport, risk assessments, and communication with the foraymembers. The Foray Leader has a great deal of responsibility to **ensure that the foray is safe, well-organised, and enjoyable for the participants**. Often this individual will have the most experience in identifying species, but this is not necessarily required. What is key is their ability to plan, make responsible decisions, and keep everyone on track to fulfill the goals of the survey. Everyone on the survey should have the Foray Leader's contact details, and vice versa.

When the Foray Leader is talking in the field, they should check that everyone is listening and can hear them.

Photographer

Each observational record or collection made should be photographed in the field. While many, if not all, of the foray members will have a camera of their own, it is highly recommended that one individual be designated the Foray Photographer in each group. This will make it much easier to ensure that there is a photograph of each specimen; if each member has taken photographs of their own observations and collections, these can be difficult to collate back at base, leaving records incomplete or unidentifiable. The Photographer should ideally have some experience in nature photography and should know how to work their camera.

Recorder

The Recorder takes notes as the foray unit finds each specimen, listing field number, the genus and species if known, the habitat, substrate, any associated species, and whether a photograph and/or collection was taken. They will carry the *Fungal Foray Record Sheet*. This individual will spend a good amount of time writing notes in the field, and less time looking around, thus it can be a difficult post to fill. If that is an issue, the Foray Leader should rotate the position through several members of the foray unit. This role requires waterproof paper, pencils, clear handwriting, and a methodical nature that ensures that every observation or collection is recorded.

Collector

For any collections which are made, text descriptions and sometimes drawings are made in the field covering all of the key characteristics of the specimen before it is collected. The fruit body may deteriorate rapidly once removed from its substrate so these will complement further descriptions made once the specimen has been prepared and dried. Like the role of Recorder, the Collector will need waterproof paper, pencils, and clear handwriting. Unlike the Recorder, the Collector may spend significantly longer with a single specimen taking very detailed notes, rather than recording each target species observed.

Identifier

This is not a set role, but one which may be different for each record. The Identifier is the individual who identifies the specimen to genus or species level, i.e. the person who recognizes the fungus and can make an informed decision about the identification. Often, this won't take place in the field at all but may be someone who researches the characters that were noted in field guides sometime later and finds evidence sufficient to make the identification. It is important to record the Identifier for each record in case there are any questions later about how the identification was made. It is not at all uncommon not to be able to confidently identify a fungal species in the field; this is something that improves with practice as you become familiar with more species.