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## THE BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

# Guidelines for Event Planning on the Bruce Trail

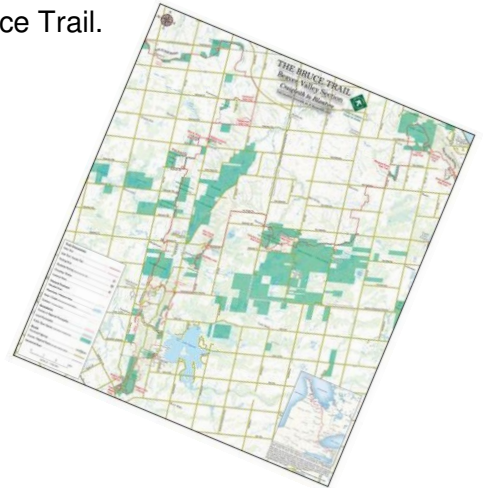
Thank you for considering holding your group or special event on the Bruce Trail.

The Bruce Trail can present a wonderful adventure, but each adventure requires careful planning as there are a number of logistic and safety considerations along the Trail.

***Please review these Guidelines carefully and plan accordingly.***

For more information, contact us at:

Website: [www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org)  
Email: [info@brucetrail.org](mailto:info@brucetrail.org)  
Phone: 1-800-665-HIKE  
Address: P.O. Box 857 Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9



## WHAT IS THE BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY?

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is a charitable organization committed to establishing a conservation corridor containing a public footpath along the Niagara Escarpment, in order to protect its natural ecosystems and to promote environmentally responsible public access to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

The BTC is a charitable, membership-based, volunteer organization.



## RESPECTING LANDOWNER REQUIREMENTS

Much of the Bruce Trail crosses private property. The BTC has received specific permission from generous landowners to allow passage across their private property.

This permission is for **foot traffic only** (hiking, snow shoeing, skiing), to cross along a specific, marked route. Any other form of transit across these lands is trespassing unless YOU have received specific permission from these landowners yourself.

The Bruce Trail also winds through public lands. If your event will take place on the Bruce Trail within the bounds of a Conservation Area, or a Municipal, Provincial or Federal Park, you should contact that landowner specifically for permission.



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### BRUCE TRAIL USERS' CODE

The Bruce Trail is a public footpath. Non-pedestrian modes of transport are **not** permitted except along road sections of the trail and in specific areas where explicit permission is posted.

- Hike only along marked routes, especially on farmland. Do not take shortcuts.
- Do not climb fences – use the stiles.
- Respect the privacy of people living along the trail
- Leave the trail cleaner than you found it. Carry out all litter.
- No open fires are allowed on the trail. Use a portable stove.
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control at all times.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Take nothing but photographs; leave only your thanks.

#### Explanation of the Blazes



A single blaze leads you straight ahead. The next blaze is often in view from here.



Tuxedo Blaze  
(emphasizes white)



Two blazes indicate a TURN.

Veer Left



Veer Right



A blue T-blaze denotes the END of a Side Trail.

### PRE-EVENT PLANNING

#### 1. Know your route:

- a. Buy an up-to-date [Bruce Trail Reference](#) to have current information.
- b. Keep on top of any [reroutes or trail changes](#) by visiting [www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org) or calling 1-800-665-4453 ext.25
- c. Walk the trail before planning your event.
- d. Contact [local BTC Clubs](#) to identify hazards, areas of difficulty, etc.

#### 2. Determine your overnight accommodation:

There are many unique B&B's and some campsites available along the trail.

Visit our website or [click here for accommodation & campsite listings](#).

NOTE: Accommodation and camping **cannot** be booked through the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

Camping is only allowed at designated campsites. These are limited in number and are shown on the maps and in the notes in the Trail Reference. Bruce Trail Overnight Rest Areas (ORAs) are not designed for group camping.

#### 3. Plan your transportation & parking:

You must arrange your own transportation to and from trailheads.

Parking is marked on each of the detailed maps in the Trail Reference by a red "P" enclosed in a circle. There are also recommended parking areas with nearest access points listed in the Trail Reference text. In many areas, parking on roads near the Trail is forbidden.



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- 4. Ensure all event participants are aware of the Bruce Trail Users' Code (see pg. 2)**
- 5. Ensure all event participants are aware of Safety Issues**

### **Safety on the Trail**

Certain risks are inherent in any trail hike and all users must accept personal responsibility for their safety while on the trail.

Trail conditions vary according to the season and weather. Users of the Bruce Trail are expected to exercise good judgment and take appropriate precautions for their personal well-being.

Always prepare ahead for a hike. Gain knowledge of hazardous areas such as crevices, rocky areas, and busy roadways before you set out.

Always follow the blazes. If you lose the trail, retrace your steps to the last marker.

Make sure you have adequate footwear and clothing suited for any weather you might encounter that day.

Have a first aid kit available.

Let someone know where you are hiking and when you expect to return. Cell phones do not work along all parts of the Bruce Trail.

Modify your speed in inclement weather and take extra care where the tread way is rocky, where it follows a cliff edge, or passes caves or crevices. Snow can cover hazards.

Be aware that some road and rail crossings are very hazardous. Take care when crossing.

Treat all drinking water obtained on the trail except potable water available in parks and conservation areas.

If you are camping along the trail, always hang any food, soap and toothpaste in a bag on a line strung between two trees about 4 metres off the ground and away from your tent. Do not take your backpack into your tent as it may smell of food.

Give wild animals a wide berth and never get between a mother and her young of any species.

Poison Ivy is common along many stretches of the trail. Learn how to recognize it. If you hike with a dog, be aware that dogs can pick up the oil from Poison Ivy on their fur; petting your dog will transfer the oil to your hands.



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Ticks can be found along some parts of the trail, particularly where it passes through vegetation. Thoroughly check yourself and your pets after your hike.

**These safety points were developed primarily for hikers. Trail runners must also be aware that many sections of the Bruce Trail are very rugged and rocky and are very dangerous for running. Many sections of the BT pass through fields with livestock. Please obey all “No running” signs in these fields.**

### SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THE BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY?

Please be aware that knowledge of an event in no way implies endorsement by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

If you would like to request support or endorsement of your event by the BTC, including use of the BTC logo or use of our website, please complete our “**Request for Support**” form available at [www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org)

As a charitable organization with limited resources, the BTC cannot support all events that request support.

In its responses to these requests the BTC must promote

- responsible use
- safety
- respect for the terms of the landowner agreements.

**Good luck with your event!**

#### [Join the BTC!](#)

**The Bruce Trail Conservancy is a member-based charitable organization.**

Become a member and share in the dream to secure a continuous conservation corridor containing a footpath that winds its way along the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston Heights to Tobermory.

\$50 Family or Individual Membership  
\$125 Community Group Membership

[www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org)

