

Saving Wilderness.



Changing Lives.

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance

Volunteer Code of Conduct

Approved: 5/10/2024

1. Introduction:

It is a privilege to represent the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Boulder Ranger District as a volunteer. Oftentimes, volunteers are the first and only contact the visiting public has with a USFS representative. Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) has adopted this code of conduct to guide its volunteers in upholding the highest standards of behavioral conduct when acting on behalf of IPWA. IPWA and the USFS reserve the right to release any volunteer from their duties at any time.

This policy is not intended as a stand-alone policy. It does not embody the totality of the IPWA ethical standards, nor does it answer every ethical or procedural question or issue that might arise. Rather, it is one element of a broader effort to create and maintain a quality organization that gives ethical conduct the highest priority.

2. Code of Conduct

While in uniform and/or performing public-facing volunteer duties, and/or interacting with other IPWA volunteers and Board members, volunteers are expected to:

DO's:

1. Represent the USFS and IPWA in a professional and positive manner.
2. Follow all rules, regulations, policies, and safety guidelines provided by the USFS in the Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) and/or Risk Assessment Worksheet (RAW) and by IPWA in the Volunteer Handbook. Do not attempt to tackle any situation for which you do not have adequate personal protective equipment (leather gloves, eye protection) tools, skills, training, or personnel.
3. Serve in the capacity of contacting the public to provide information and education, while striving for the minimum level of contact with members of the public.
4. Follow the dress code specified in the IPWA Uniform Policy.
5. Leave pets at home - yours and/or a hiking companion's pet.
6. Report violations and suspicious/illegal activity as soon as possible.
 - a. Gather details of the violation for your report (such as date, time, location details, what violators are wearing, color of tent, license plate #s). Photographic evidence of violations/violators/license plates is NOT required and should only be taken if the volunteer can do so discreetly and feels safe and comfortable to do so.
 - b. Document your observations in your patrol report AND call appropriate contacts in your IPWA Handbook.

DON'T's:

1. Use derogatory or confrontational language or participate in discrimination, sexual harassment, or violent or threatening behavior.
2. Don't enforce regulations (such as asking for identification or checking any permits) as enforcement is **solely** the responsibility of Forest Protection Officers and Law Enforcement Officers.
3. Disturb a visitor's personal property/belongings (i.e., do not move or disturb their campsite, tent, backpack, etc.)
4. Smoke, or possess/use alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs.
5. Carry a firearm.
6. Never initiate contact with individuals where drugs, alcohol, guns, or other suspicious activity is taking place and/or you don't feel comfortable.

3. Code of Conduct Violations

IPWA considers that violations of any of the six items listed in the "DO's" section are likely to be minor in nature. The Patrol Coordinator will communicate directly with the volunteer to explain the reason for the guidelines and request compliance in future. Repeat occurrences and/or a non-cooperative response will be reported to the Board for discussion of further action.

IPWA considers that violations of any of the six items listed in the "DON'T's" section to be major violations which are likely to be grounds for termination from the volunteer program. The Board of Directors will gather all relevant information on the matter and vote on any termination decision. Terminated volunteers may petition the Board for reinstatement.

IPWA Board of Directors will take all reasonable measures to maintain confidentiality.

4. Signature

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____