

## **Tips for excursions**

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### **The leader**

- \* When the excursion is advertised, give an indication of the length of the drive and the type of roads/tracks to be travelled on. Also indicate the length and difficulty of any walk. Consider too, toilet facilities.
- \* Check the excursion location for safety e.g. are there hazards that are best avoided e.g. steep unprotected drops, washed out footpaths, slippery areas etc. Are the stopping places safe e.g. is there off-road parking, and is there a clear 100 metres sight distance from corners? Avoid stopping on highways unless there is ample off-road parking.
- \* On the excursion day, inform the drivers of other vehicles of the route to be taken. It is not safe to travel in a convoy along a major highway. If the route includes busy intersections/traffic lights, the convoy is likely to become fragmented. It is best to indicate a meeting place e.g. Newstead PO.
- \* Do not assume that everyone will know the excursion rules (e.g. wait at corners etc).
- \* Check that the attendance book has been signed, and that there is a first aid kit.
- \* It is a good idea to appoint a tail-end Charlie who knows the route, on both walks and drives. It helps if the tail vehicle is large and distinctive.
- \* At turnings, particularly on minor roads/tracks, wait until the last vehicle/walker arrives.
- \* If the convoy is likely to be large, provide ribbons for the cars, so that members can readily identify the cars in the convoy.
- \* At stopping places, say how long the stop will be. Also indicate what the attractions at this stop are.
- \* When leading off, let the others know where the next stop will be.
- \* Announce when the excursion is ended. There is no need to drive home in convoy if the route home is clearly known.
- \* Remember that safety is paramount. Do not hesitate to cancel the excursion if the weather is unsuitable, or becomes unsuitable.

### **Members on the Excursion**

- \* If possible share transport.
- \* Make sure that you have supplies e.g sufficient petrol, before starting
- \* Do not leave the excursion without telling the leader, and tail person, and any other who might be affected.
- \* Take responsibility for the person behind you. Wait at corners, intersections, or any place where the route is not clear, until the person behind has caught up.
- \* Never travel at an uncomfortable or unsafe speed. The person in front will wait until you have caught up.
- \* If the worst happens, and you get lost, just wait. Someone will come looking for you.
- \* Do not get in front of the leader; many leaders count regularly, to check that all is well. Or the route may be different to what you suppose.
- \* Do not get behind the tail-end car/walker. Often, the leader does not count, but waits only for the tail to appear.

### **All members**

- \* One of the advantages of group excursions is that there are many pairs of eyes and ears. Share with others what you see and find. Things that may be commonplace to you may be of great interest to others. And ask questions.