BUILDING A CULTURE OF SAFETY

START
OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize that team leaders of field projects are essential to & responsible for building a culture of safety

2. Identify practical techniques to help foster a positive attitude towards safety in the field
CULTURE OF SAFETY

- An attitude rather than a set of rules
- A habit, mindset, way of life
- An everyday part of doing business
SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

PRE-FIELDING

- Online expedition materials
- Participant screening
- Participant preparation
- Code of Conduct
- Liability release
Team leaders are responsible for cultivating the team’s shared attitude towards safety.
SET THE TONE

DAY 01

- Give a thorough safety briefing
- Promote a supportive atmosphere that values safety & learning
- Encourage open discussion of questions or concerns
- Set the tone that safety is a way of life in the field
- Communicate clearly
When the team arrives, introduce the site – give a tour, point out facilities, amenities & ‘no go’ areas

- Review safety information including potential hazards
- Introduce the Emergency Response Plan & its location
- Explain the means of communication available
- Introduce the research & tasks
- Discuss group expectations & any concerns
- Instruct participants on sustainable field practices
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
TO ENCOURAGE SAFE BEHAVIOR

BUILD A COHESIVE TEAM
that works well & communicates well together

SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS
for safe behavior & positive group dynamics

ASK THE TEAM FOR INPUT
on what makes a safe & enjoyable expedition
(consider a group contract/rules*)

ENGAGE WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL
- Informal conversations
- Ice breaker activities
- Team-building activities & games*

*Especially useful for teen teams.
LEAD BY EXAMPLE
EMPOWER YOUR TEAM

Everyone should know what to do in case of an emergency

Encourage all to be proactive in managing their own safety

Create an open environment where people feel comfortable raising health & safety concerns

Listen to feedback
REITERATE IMPORTANT IDEAS

Remind participants throughout the team how to take care of themselves & each other.
PAY ATTENTION TO COMMON PITFALLS

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Complacency
- Presumed competency
- Presumed common sense
- Carelessness or distraction
- Bad habits & work practices
- Rushing or taking shortcuts

ADDRESS CHALLENGES EARLY
• Leaders of Earthwatch teams are essential to & responsible for building a culture of safety

• Practical techniques can be used in the field to foster a positive attitude towards safety