

HERITAGE BULLETIN

Tips, Ideas & More to Help Preserve Oregon's Heritage

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CEMETERY VISITS WITH GROUPS

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When planning a group visit to a cemetery, contact the cemetery organization or caretaker at least two weeks prior to the visit. Include the date of the planned visit, times, how many will be in the group, any specific needs, and contact information. Check back with the cemetery a day or two prior to the visit to be sure there have been no changes. Here are a few other things to remember:

Brief your group about the dangers in historic cemeteries:

- Uneven ground
- Vegetation
- Loose or leaning markers
- Fragile curbing, fencing and other features
- Wildlife

Ensure that your group does not walk, stand, sit, lean on or touch any of the grave markers, curbing and other decorative cemetery fixtures.

Ensure all group members use walk ways and roadways. Refrain from walking across gravesites. If you need to leave a pathway to reach a specific plot, please proceed with care and respect.



Walk, no running in the cemetery. Running maybe allowed by individuals, but in group settings it is dangerous.

Rubbings of any kind should only be done with cemetery approval.

If your group includes youth, please be sure that adult chaperones are with students and monitoring their activities at all times.

Ensure that vehicles are parked without blocking the roadways and without parking on gravesites.



Be aware that water, trash and restroom facilities may not be available in the cemetery. Bring water, take trash away with you, and plan to use facilities elsewhere. Better yet, bring a trash bag and help with a bit of clean up.

Be aware of the physical abilities of the people in your party and their safety while in the cemetery. Cemeteries may be hilly, slippery, hot and larger than expected.

Be aware of poisonous plants and animals; poison oak, snakes and spiders are commonly found in rural cemeteries.

Some cemeteries allow flowers, rocks and other grave goods to be left on or near the burials. Be respectful of these traditions and leave those items in place.

If there is a guest register, fill it out and let them know who was there.

If you see recent damage at the cemetery, contact the cemetery caretakers and let them know.

If you have information about the people buried at the cemetery, offer to share it with the cemetery caretakers.

When taking photographs, be sure you follow the cemetery rules. The photos should be for personal use only. Do not photograph funerals or burials in process unless you are one of the party participating in the event.

During your group's visit, be considerate of others who may be paying their respects or attending a service.

