North
American
Nature
Photography
Association

6382 Charleston Rd.
Alma, IL 62807

t. 618/547.7616
f. 618.547.7438

nanpa.org

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL FIELD PRACTICES

NANPA believes that following these practices promotes the well-being of the location, subject and photographer. Every place, plant, and animal, whether above or below water, is unique, and cumulative impacts occur over time. Therefore, one must always exercise good individual judgment. It is NANPA's belief that these principles will encourage all who participate in the enjoyment of nature to do so in a way that best promotes good stewardship of the resource.

ENVIRONMENTAL: KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT AND PLACE

Learn patterns of animal behavior.
So as not to interfere with animal life cycles.

Do not distress wildlife or their habitat.
Respect the routine needs of animals.

Use appropriate lenses to photograph wild animals.
If an animal shows stress, move back and use a longer lens.

Acquaint yourself with the fragility of the ecosystem.
Stay on trails that are intended to lessen impact.

Do not participate in or endorse the use of a live mammal as bait for photographic purposes.
Use of a live mammal as bait is unethical and can cause harm to predatory birds and animals.

Research your subject beforehand and avoid risking harm to capture an image.
For example, current research shows that baiting owls causes harmful habituation and should be avoided.

SOCIAL: KNOWLEDGE OF RULES AND LAWS

When appropriate, inform managers or other authorities of your presence and purpose.
Help minimize cumulative impacts and maintain safety.

Learn the rules and laws of the location.
If minimum distances exist for approaching wildlife, follow them.

In the absence of management authority, use good judgment.
Treat the wildlife, plants and places as if you were their guest.

Prepare yourself and your equipment for unexpected events.
Avoid exposing yourself and others to preventable mishaps.

INDIVIDUAL: EXPERTISE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Treat others courteously.
Ask before joining others already shooting in an area.

Tactfully inform others if you observe them in engaging in inappropriate or harmful behavior.
Many people unknowingly endanger themselves and animals.

Report inappropriate behavior to proper authorities.
Don't argue with those who don't care; report them.

Be a good role model, both as a photographer and a citizen.
Educate others by your actions; enhance their understanding.