

1 Introduction

The Country Code is a guide to our behaviour in rural areas and natural environment. It highlights attitudes that should be prominent when we are in these areas. Be considerate for those whose living is made in the rural areas, as well as others who want to enjoy the natural environment. While it is true that Singapore is highly urbanised, the Country Code is all the more relevant, given the scarcity of natural areas in our country.



2. The Code

2.1 Guard against all risk of fire

We often hear that fire is a good servant, but a bad master. This is true in all cases. A fire endangers life. So in all cases do the following:

- a) Always gain permission before lighting a fire in the outdoors.
- b) Remove all flammable material from the fire's immediate location
- c) If a fire is discovered, try to put it out or contact the authorities who are able to do so.

2.2 Fasten all gates

When encountering the need to use gates, ensure that the last person always latches them after the entire party has entered. This will prevent a farmer's animals from wandering off and other illegal entry.

2.3 Keep dogs under control

Dogs need to be leashed and not free roaming. Allow others to enjoy the natural environment without being unnecessarily harassed. Where necessary, they should also be muzzled to ensure that they do not injure other people or farm animals.

2.4 Keep to the paths across farmlands

Where paths exist, keep to them. They exist for your safety as well as to ensure that the surroundings and/or private property remain untouched or undamaged.

2.5 Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls

These are erected for a purpose: to keep certain things in, but others out. Help their owners maintain them by not climbing over them.



2.6 Leave no litter

All camp litter that cannot be destroyed should be removed from the site and deposited in a litterbin when possible. It should not be buried. For instance, modern plastic bags take up to 120 years, before they begin degrading.

2.7 Safeguard water supplies

Protect natural water supplies by preventing decontamination. So do your washing up away from the stream, and by pouring oil, fat and grease into the ground.

2.8 Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees

A protective attitude towards life in the natural environment is captured in the following saying:

“Take only memories and photographs, leave only footprints”.

Always note that there should be little

or no evidence of the fact that an expedition has passed through or camped in an area.

2.9 Go carefully on country roads

Use country roads only when necessary. When absolutely necessary, walk in single file, keeping right.

2.10 Respect the life of the countryside

Show respect for the inhabitants of the countryside and their way of life. When appropriate, try to explain your purpose to local residents, and thank them for the assistance they render as well as their understanding. Permission to camp must always be obtained from the landowner or appropriate person.

