

March 23, 2021

Happy Spring Master Watershed Stewards and Steward Candidates!

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the wonderful weather that March has finally brought to Maryland. It's been a long winter and like many of you, we are looking to get back out in the field and a return to a more-normal routine. We have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and feel the time is appropriate to allow a limited return to certain Watershed Steward Academy (WSA) activities. Please keep in mind that this return to limited group activity is voluntary.

Over the coming weeks, our plan is to finalize more detailed guidance so that when the appropriate time arrives, we will be prepared to handle a full return to field work and community engagement. But until then, below is guidance to follow if you and other Master Watershed Stewards or Steward Candidates must follow if you wish to voluntarily get outdoors and work on certain WSA projects or activities.

**WSA interim/short-term guidance on Master Watershed Stewards and Steward Candidates interested in returning to limited field-related activities:**

- Only small group activities (no more than 5 individuals) are allowed and are to be with other Master Watershed Stewards or Steward candidates only.
- There is to be no direct (in-person) community or landowner engagement.
- Small group activities with other Stewards must follow current county, state, University, and CDC guidelines regarding masks, hand sanitizing, and social distancing.
- Activities are limited to things such as BMP maintenance and class or capstone project assessment. There are to be no in-person workshops, in-person demonstrations, or in-person presentations.
- Each Steward participating in an outdoor activity must notify their local WSA Coordinator by email prior to a field-related activity they plan on participating in. They need to inform the Coordinator of the type of activity, date, time, location, and names of others involved.

**All activities must be in alignment with county, state, and UME/UMD protocols. A summary of key protocols is listed below:**

- Individuals should not meet with others if there is any indication of a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Individuals must drive separately (no carpooling).
- Frequently wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Do not share tools, measuring equipment, clipboards, etc.
- Bring your own drinking water and snacks. Do not share with others.

We appreciate your steadfast support for WSA during the past year. If you have any questions about this guidance, please don't hesitate to contact your local WSA Program Coordinator.

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