

## EcoQuest Professional Code of Ethics

Apart from the EcoQuest participant's protocols, health questionnaire, health, safety and risk disclaimer, it is important for participants to know what the directors or practitioner's professional code of ethics are. These are listed below for your reference.

### Statement of Intent

EcoQuest upholds the belief that personal integrity of the practitioner, professional competence, transparency and commitment to participants' well-being and safety is paramount while facilitating an EcoQuest outdoor activity.

### Good Practice

Participants can be assured that EcoQuest director or practitioners are governed by the principles of good practice and impartiality. The director or practitioner will take care in demonstrating competency skills. These involve:

- Communicating with clarity, confidence and empathy
- The ability to manage emotional catharsis
- Being adaptable while balancing time management
- Encouraging spontaneity, synergy and with sensitivity, ( where appropriate) help others to reflect on their personal awakenings
- Exercising care and diligence for individuals to experience God and nature, to be the therapist, teacher and/or healer
- Empowering each participant to feel connected, respected and included

Delivering an efficient group experience also requires balancing workbook material with time for personal processing, feedback and non-pressured reflection.

While there is a management component to good practice, procedure and methodology, there is no substitute for spontaneity, laughter and the dynamic of inspiration which can affect the group as a whole.

### Respecting Individuality

Throughout each EcoQuest, individuals will be shown respect, equality and affirmation. The director or practitioner will respect and reinforce the worth, needs and beliefs/values of each group participant regardless of religious creed, cultural perspective or world view. This is especially important as the power differential between the director or practitioner and group participants is seen as neutral.

As the director or practitioner is in a position of privilege and trust, participants' can be reassured they will not become subjected to persuasion of any political, ethnic or religious judgments. Accordingly, the practitioner will not discriminate against, nor exploit, individuals on the grounds of age, gender, race, cultural background, sexual orientation and will respect each person's integrity and autonomy.

Respecting individuality means treating each person as equals for the advancement of individual and collaborative enlightenment and change.

### The Therapeutic Relationship

The therapeutic relationship is based on mutual respect rather than it being a personal friendship that disproportionately exploits or blurs an individual's boundaries, privacy and/or becomes an inappropriate relationship within the activity or beyond.

Even after a considerable length of time following the completion of an EcoQuest, the influence of transference (projected expectation/s of a former participant that is deemed unethical) could be seen as unprofessional. The therapeutic relationship needs to be held within the space it was created and not hijacked by personal advantage.

The therapeutic relationship can complement a participant's 'Aha' Moment/s. This is especially true when personal enlightenment is underpinned by the practitioner's empathy or objectivity. To this degree, the therapeutic relationship needs to remain neutral with all group participants for making possible the continuation of other forms of personal growth outside an EcoQuest activity.

### Disputes Process

While all care is taken to have a successful outdoor activity, should a participant be at odds with another participant's point of view, EcoQuest philosophy, direction, or style of the director or practitioner etc, the complainant is encouraged to take up their concerns with the director or practitioner at the conclusion of the EcoQuest.