



THE GOLDEN RULES OF PARTICIPATING IN BAIp'S ACTIVITIES

By participating in our offerings, you are agreeing to the following rules of the road:

1. Prioritize.

If you belong to an ongoing group, we expect you to prioritize that commitment, hold meeting dates in your calendar and attend more often than not. If infeasible, consider instead our Let's Go outings, neighborhood meals or happy hours.

2. Read BAIp activity leaders' messages carefully.

These often contain critical information about routes, dates, books. No one likes to spend their day on emailing back and forth. Think and read before you ask your leader a question about logistics.

3. Reply! RSVP! Get back to your leader.

Your prompt reply to your leader's message is **expected**. People open their homes. They want to prepare for your arrival. It is courteous to let them know your response as early as possible. Do it in an email or by calling; leaders have a lot of balls in the air when running groups and may not remember something you mention in passing.

4. Just can't help it and have to miss something? Cancel!

If you are not coming to an outing, a group meeting, a meal or a happy hour organized by BAIp, you must send a cancellation notice to the organizer. Think of that person as your host; it is rude not to inform him or her of your absence. Plus we'll worry about you if you don't show up. Also, many of our offerings have long waiting lists, and knowledge of your absence may mean someone else may participate.

5. Arrive on time.

Please don't keep your exercise instructors, outing leaders and fellow group members waiting.

6. Overcommitted or overwhelmed? Drop out!

If you are dropping a group, be explicit. Tell your leader that it's not for you any more. If he or she is communicating with you, you are probably considered a group member. Don't leave your leader guessing. Dropping the group is fine; just be clear so someone else may have a chance to participate.

7. Dote.

Notice that one of your fellow members is not coming regularly or feeling unwell? Please help us build our community by taking the initiative to check on him or her with a friendly email. We've seen this happening all over BAIp and consider it to be our essence.

8. An occasional "thank you" goes a long way

Volunteers, group leaders, tour guides, neighborhood partners (the Marseilles, restaurants...) all make BAIp go round. Your thanks is music to our ears. We all share equity in this organization and that makes it unique.

If you have any questions about these rules of the road, please contact BAIp's Activities Committee co-chairs, Phyllis Sperling and Caitlin Hawke at activities@bloominplace.org and 212-842-8831, extension 16.