

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why do we not have a regular schedule of activities?

While we may not have a same day hike or walk every week, our club has a number of activities planned every week. Activities are scheduled by volunteer leaders and are usually posted dependent on the weather and their personal schedules.

Any member of the club can be a leader and post activities. Our club depends on every club member to bring a full slate of activities to enjoy. To get started as a leader, consider volunteering for short outings. We need to stay connected to remain vibrant!

2. How do I find out about hikes?

Leaders post hikes through Google Groups (your email is added when you become a paid member) and/or on the Private FB site

3. I am a bit nervous about signing up for day trips because I'm not a strong or overly fit hiker, so I just don't go.

The outings posted give the details of the day trip that includes the description, duration and difficulty. You can determine if you can do it or not by completing the "Rate Yourself as a Hiker"

https://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/hiker_rating.pdf

If you have any questions, the leader is always available to answer them

4. Why is there sometimes a long waiting list for multi-day trips and how can I get on one?

We are extremely fortunate to have volunteers who organize multi-day outings and international trips. Participant spaces are very limited and at the discretion of the organizer. Planning a trip is time consuming. Reservations to the most scenic and popular places are difficult to book. Many Provincial, National and State parks have a 12 person maximum group size. To get word of trips, start by getting to know members and go on day outings. By getting involved you will hear ideas of future trips.

Once a trip is posted, contact the volunteer organizer. They have full discretion on participants and take into consideration experience, equipment and compatibility. The club needs more trip leaders.

5. Can I be a leader?

Anyone can be a leader as long as they are knowledgeable and comfortable leading a group.

The COC always needs leaders for any activity so please don't be shy about getting involved. There are two ways we use to communicate: Facebook and Google Groups. When posting trips some leaders use one or the other, some use both.

Suggested full details for an outing include:

- Destination, date and photo
- General description, web link
- Duration – estimate of hike time
- Difficulty – elevation gain, etc.
- Meeting point(s) and departure time(s)
- Additional details

6. Why does there seem to be so many COC FB sites?

1. Chilliwack Outdoor Club Private – A group site for paid members only, where member activities are posted
2. Chilliwack Outdoor Club Public – A group site where the public can join, where photos of club activities, sharing items of interest and equipment for sale are posted
3. Chilliwack Outdoor Club Page – A page to promote the club to the general Public

7. Can I bring my dog on a hike?

Dogs are only permitted on COC hikes or trips when the initial trip post explicitly states that dogs will be welcome on the trip. For more information please see the dog policy

<https://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/wp-content/uploads/COC-Dog-Policy-July-2020.pdf>

8. Can I bring a guest to an activity?

With the permission of the leader, guests (non-members) are welcome to participate in up to 3 outings with the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

ALL guests **MUST** sign a waiver form for **ANY** activity. You will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the activity if you do not bring the signed waiver form with you, this is for insurance purposes

For more information and to download the waiver form please go to:

<https://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/guest-policy/>

9. When carpooling, what should I expect to pay for gas?

Carpooling is encouraged and supported by the Club. Gas costs (wear and tear and/or extra insurance may be a part of the cost) per individual for day trips is suggested at \$10 per hour of travel (not travel distance). This is because it may take 2 hours to travel a rough 4X4 gravel, high elevation, cross ditched road and only 30 minutes to travel the same distance on a paved highway. Generally, day trips range from \$15 to \$30 for trips to and from the Coquihalla, Manning PP, Mt. Baker and the North Shore. The above rate (\$10 per hour) is based on 4 people per vehicle with the driver contributing equally to the vehicle costs. However, if there are 5 people the occupants should discuss a lower hourly rate. Ultimately, the cost is at the driver's discretion, so it is very important that all occupants understand the rate before departing for the trip. If anyone is unhappy with the costs, they have the option to ride with someone else or take their own vehicle. Riders should bring cash with them to settle up at the conclusion of the trip

10. Who are the executive and how do you get on the Board of Directors?

Board of Directors are elected by members at the AGM in April each year. Anyone can step up to be part of the BoD

Who they are? Please see profiles at:

<https://www.chilliwackoutdoorclub.com/board-of-directors-new/>

11. What are the 10 essentials for my backpack?

Before you hit any trail, no matter how easy, no matter how short, no matter how close to home, make sure your backpack is loaded with the ten essentials.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Extra clothing
4. Sunglasses and sunscreen
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Fire starter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food and water

When in the backcountry you are responsible for your own safety, and any one of these ten items may help to save your life. Carry them all and know how to use them.

12. How often are members meetings and what takes place at them?

Meetings take place the last Monday of each month from 7-9pm. Club business is brought to the members, there may be a presentation. Details of the meetings will be

emailed to members and posted on the Private FB site.

13. What does my \$40 membership fee go to?

\$25 FMCBC - liability insurance, FMCBC membership

\$15 COC – member training, club operations and activities such as the Annual Picnic and Christmas Party

14. What is FMCBC?

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the only province wide umbrella organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining access to BC's backcountry.

Since 1972, they have represented the interests of outdoor clubs from every corner of the province and have provided a united voice on issues related to non-motorized backcountry recreation.

Their membership is comprised of a diverse group of thousands of non-motorized backcountry recreationists including hikers, rock climbers, mountaineers, mountain bikers, trail runners, kayakers, backcountry skiers and snowshoers. As an organization, they believe the enjoyment of these pursuits in an unspoiled environment is a vital component to the quality of life for British Columbians.

15. Who can post hikes?

Any member is welcome to post a hike. The club is always in need of new leaders!

16. Where can I sell my outdoor stuff, that is in good condition but I just don't use anymore?

Equipment can be posted in the Chilliwack Outdoor Club Public group on Facebook