

Trip leadership

Module 2

We have done our Pre-trip planning and have sent your post via email/Facebook, now we go into details of leading the trip.

Car Pooling and member information update

- Car pooling can be done in your pre-trip planning, and can also be done in the parking lot as we do for most day trips.
- Introduce yourself and others at the carpool meet up or trailhead
- Visitors must have a signed waiver.
- Trip may need to be changed or canceled due weather or other risks, like the roads.
- Remind members of the carpool policy and reimbursement rate for drives \$10 per hour.
- Members may come unprepared or with no understanding of the difficulty of the trip, or how long the day trip may be.
- Part of your pre-trip or Trip leader duties is to ensure members
- Fitness: capabilities to complete the trip
- Health: Ask if there are any medications, or injuries you should know about and have them tell you in private.
- Preparedness: Do a quick visual or ask if members have proper equipment and essentials for the trip.
- Leave a trip plan with someone in case of emergence, preferably someone who knows how to handle and read logistics to relay to first responders

2- Trailhead meeting review with all members

- Confirm head count and double check everything is taken from vehicles and locked
- Describe the trip and trail conditions, scenery, wildlife, rivers or lakes
- What are our objectives for the trip? To the peak? Maybe the summit? Or just to the lake?
- Ask if other members will be following trails on Gaia or All trails
- Are there any safety issues the group needs to be aware of? Expected trail conditions? Wind day beware of falling trees and branches? Slippery logs and rocks?
- Share with the group your plans of the expected time of trip according to group size. The difficulty to expect for the day. Where you plan to stop lunch, at the peak, summit, river or lake and for how long 30-45 mins.
- How often do we want to stop for breaks? Stopping every 20-30 mins, hikers can do clothing adjustments, drink water or have a snack.
- Establish the trip rules- be explicit about how you intend to keep the group together.
- Designate a sweep preferably someone with experience.
- Remind hikers to always wait at signed and unsigned trail junctions and water crossings, and of any other safety concerns.
- Don't let any members of the party go too far ahead of the group or behind the rear sweep without permission. Call the shots, that's what it means to be a leader.
- Maybe split into 2-3 groups to accommodate slower and faster hikers.

- Do you need radios?
- Designate another sweep and a co-leader if splitting into multiple groups, preferably someone with experience.
- How far apart are you willing to allow?
- Are you in a deep forested area?
- Visibility is unlimited in open areas.
- Take turns when leading or breaking trails on snowshoe trips.
- Leave no trace pack out what you pack in.

3- Decisions to be made on the trail

- Monitoring the group's progress.
- Check in with participants throughout the trip. If someone is having difficulty (i.e. equipment, physical problem) discuss options for continuing or turning around to be accompanied by another participant(s).
- Do we need to change our plans?
- Sharing in decision making. As a trip leader with consensus of the group input, make the final decision.
- Weather conditions: rain, snow, ice, heat.
- Risk factors: darkness, wind, river crossings, bridges, injury to members.
- Safety first on behalf of the group and others.
- Leaving anyone alone or allowing someone to head back alone, in almost all circumstances, is not acceptable. Must be accompanied with 1 or 2 members with trip leader's permission and direction.

4- After the trip

- Make sure everyone is back and accounted for.
 - If a dinner/food stop is being planned, identify the restaurant and directions, etc.
 - Make sure all cars start before leaving, and members can enjoy their journey home safely.
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- talk about the MT Kelly incident with a new member not being prepared for a snowshoe.
 - talk about sweep mistakes

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We have done our Pre-trip planning and have sent your post via email/Facebook, now we go into details of leading the trip.

1: Decisions to be made as the trip leader before you leave the parking lot and travel to the trailhead?

2: As a group you have arrived at the trailhead, now as a trip leader what are some of the decisions, information, or guidelines you need to discuss with members before commencing on your planned trip.

3: Now as a trip leader what are some of the decisions, factors or situations you will need to monitor while on the trail with members?

4: After you have completed your day or multiday adventure, what are a few things you still need to wrap to complete the trip?