



## Leader Multi-Day Trip Tips

Leading trips can be a great source of pleasure and accomplishment and with good planning your multi-day trip will be long remembered as a good time. We offer some “tripper tested” tips from our collective experience:

- **People need to know** what they are getting into and if they can do it. Provide as much information about the trip as you can. Postings ideally include:
  - duration/dates,
  - elevation gains if any
  - type of surface (traversing a snowfield, ice, exposed scrambling etc)
  - fitness/challenge level (see the grading system below)
  - can equipment be shared
  - ideal for beginners or experienced only
  - minimum and maximum (for the trip to be a go)
  - expected overall costs (gas, ferry, camping, park entrance fees etc)
  - provide links to parks, trails and campground websites where possible
- **Get to know your trip colleagues.** Touch base by phone with those people you have never met (vs. email). You'll be able to assess their commitment, answer any questions, find out what experience they have and if they can be a resource for the trip. You'll also get a sense if they are ready for the trip both physically and psychologically. If you don't think they are you are well within your rights as leader to not allow them to participate this time around.
- **Transportation:** Canvass participants to see who's willing to take their vehicle. Assignment of participants to vehicles should take into account their home location (s), size of vehicle, etc. Each vehicle group should discuss how to share costs. Unlike the suggested rate for day trips (hourly base rate) it is more common for the driver and occupants to share all the trip costs.
- **Be as knowledgeable as you can when it comes to maintaining outdoor safety.** While you are not responsible for members' safety, participants will nevertheless look to you to be responsible, ensure everyone gets out safely, be the decision maker if things go awry and to exercise whatever experience or knowledge you can bring to the situation. Reiterate the need to stay together as a group, be open to changes (weather, trail conditions, fitness level etc) that may need to be dealt with and listen to your group. Think of contingency plans as responses to emergencies. Use resources and suggestions but base your decisions on the needs of the group as a whole.
- **Multi-day trips require a commitment** since they are often 6 months or more in the planning. We recommend you request a deposit that is aligned with the overall trip's expenses. For example, if total costs will be approximately \$800 for camping fees, reservation fees, tours, ferries, park passes etc that you are pre-arranging and paying for, then asking for a \$100 deposit per person is not unreasonable for 8 people. People will be less likely to cancel on a whim. This also avoids placing you in the position of scrambling to rejig plans and fill their spot. If it isn't filled then it increases the cost for the other participants. Life does intervene so you may want to offer a refund if they cancel within 30 days or for a legitimate reason if last minute.
- **Stick with your trip agenda**, especially when people may want to change the overall plan to suit their needs (not taking into account the group's needs), but be prepared to be flexible when the situation changes (and it will) or circumstances arise that need to be dealt with: injury, equipment failure, fitness levels not being what you had expected, etc.

- **Too much to do for one person? Consider co-leading a trip!** One person sets the agenda, dates, and other logistics and the other is familiar with the area and organizes it — a perfect combination. If one person is out of the country busy on another trip you can step in and field emails and vice versa!

Nov. 2020