

COC Leadership Clinic – 2026 – Owen Williams

Introduction to the Cline (15 minutes)

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1. Introductions – participants.
2. Introductions – facilitators.
3. Agenda, format and timeline.
4. What are the attributes of a good leader?
5. Ambassadors.
6. Working groups

Who are we?

The Chilliwack Outdoor Club fosters outdoor experiences and provides events encompassing all those non-motorized activities that we deem consistent with the purpose of the club (day hiking, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, biking, snowshoeing, etc). We also promote and encourage activities through training and informational programs that are in the interest of safety, education and stewardship of the outdoors.

Today we will discuss what we as member of the COC can do to successfully lead outdoor trips consistent with our mission statement.

Today

1. We have experiences relevant to leading COC trips.
2. Today is most about sharing our knowledge with all – so that we can all become better leaders.

Owen's Leadership Stories ??

What are the attributes of a good leader – group discussion

1. Concerned about the well being of the group, and of the well being of individuals,
2. Good planner – thorough.
3. Leads by example.
4. Adaptable (objectives may need to change). May need to replan.
5. Enthusiastic.
6. A good communicator. A very good listener. Being able to define the “what” and the “how” of the trip.
7. Is very aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each team member.
8. Always thinks about people's safety – and manage safety. Ensures that everyone gets home safely.
9. Can discern and understand peoples concerns. All people have concerns and insecurities. Do not always assume that you know people's concerns (Be prepared to be surprised).
10. Understand risks – and can mitigate the risks. Does not take unreasonable risks. Risks taken match people's risk tolerances. Understands that people have different risk tolerances – and can work with participants to manage these.
11. Physically fit for the route – but do not have to be the fittest. Leading from the back is OK.
12. Be a decision maker if a tough decision needs to be made.
13. Technical skills.
14. Identifies the goals that result in a successful trip.

Ensuring a successful trip. How do we define a successful trip?

Shared objectives are defined, and these objectives are met. (Whole group needs to understand the objectives.) Objectives can (or should change?) if circumstances change.

People have fun. How do people have fun on COC trips.

1. Experiencing the beauty of nature.
2. Experiencing the joy of physical accomplishment.
3. Good times with good (or new) friends.
4. Experiencing the joy of being in a community of people who thrive on being active outdoors.

People are fulfilled. People feel really good about themselves. People on a high.

Ambassadors

A reminder that we, especially leaders, are ambassadors for the COC. Ensuring that people have a great experience on our outings is good for the participants, and of course for the COC.

And about safety

Everything we talk about today better ensures that trip participants arrive home safely. Today we will be talking about “guidelines” that the leader should apply for any trip that they lead.

It is recognized that there are a million things that can go wrong. Leaders should be able to use their experience and wisdom to ensure the appropriate response.

Break into 4 groups.