Hiking

Application

This standard applies to club-sponsored mountain trips on established hiking routes longer than 2 miles round trip. It does not apply to outings in city and suburban settings. This standard applies to any committee sponsoring a hike, including, but not limited to: Hiking, Lodges, Backpacking, Photography, Naturalists, Retired Rovers, Singles, Mid-Week Hikes, and Under-The-Hill-Rovers.

Trips

Hiking trips are restricted to maintained and unmaintained trails with the following exceptions:

- Travel may proceed on snow-covered trails unless the route exposes the party to terrain where a slip is likely to result in an uncontrolled slide.
- Parties may make off-trail excursions as long as the route does not expose party members to unreasonably hazardous terrain.

Trips will be rated using this scale, and the rating must be available to participants when they sign up for the hike.

- Easy (E) Up to 8 miles round trip with less than 1,200 feet of elevation gain
- Moderate (M) Up to 12 miles round trip or with 1,200-2,500 feet of elevation gain
- Strenuous (S) Up to 14 miles round trip or with 2,500-3,500 feet of elevation gain
- Very Strenuous (VS) Over 14 miles round trip or with over 3,500 feet of elevation gain

Ratings may be adjusted for trail conditions.

The minimum party size for a hike is 3 and the maximum party size is 12 unless other party limits apply.

Leaders

Leaders must be approved to lead trips by the sponsoring committee.

Sponsoring committees must be satisfied that Leaders have competence in the following as appropriate for their trips:

- Group leadership
- Use of topographical maps and compass
- Mountain safety, including identification of hazards and actions to avoid injury
- First Aid
- Emergency preparedness (how to summon help should it be needed)

Participants

Unless specified by the leader there is no prerequisite for signing up for a hike.

Participants are responsible for signing up only for trips that are within their capabilities, wearing suitable clothing, and carrying the ten essentials.

Courses

Any hike associated with a course must comply with the requirements of this standard.

Related Clubwide Minimum Standards

General Standards for All Club Activities

Comparable Standard

UIAA Standards for Voluntary Leaders and Instructors, October 2006

- Activity Standard 1: Mountain Walking and Trekking