**Trip Objectives, Expectations and Style**

Please read through these carefully and consider how they line up with the way you like to experience an outdoor adventure. Participants who have different objectives, expectations and/or style from what’s listed below could not only have a much less enjoyable experience but would also have the potential to disrupt the experience and cohesion of the rest of the group.

**Trip Objectives**

* Have fun together and get back to the trailhead safely
* Complete the full route to the extent that everyone can do so safely
* Experience and enjoy the unique scenery of the Los Glaciares National Park.
* Expand our community of Mountaineers friends who enjoy this type of trip

**Trip Expectations**

* Participants must be able to pack light (total pack weight < ~25-30 lbs) while being prepared with gear, clothing and food sufficient for the expected conditions. (we will be carrying four-season tents provided by our outfitter)
* Participants must demonstrate recent experience walking with an overnight pack at a moderate but steady pace (1.5 mph up, 2.5 mph down) over rugged terrain on days up to 10 miles without lots of breaks.
* Participants must be confident moving on steep scree and boulder terrain, with some off-trail sections.
* Our group will be supported by a guide and assistants, but each of us is expected to take personal responsibility for being fully prepared, knowing the route and supporting each other.
* Each participant will be vaccinated and boosted.
* We will stay together on the trail and support each other.
  + *Fastest people may need to moderate their pace*
  + *People who might otherwise take extended stops for photography or nature may need to shorten their stops*
  + *We will not split the group (though short hikes out of camp are OK if you go with a buddy and have a good plan/map/gear*
  + *There will be some off-trail sections and much of the trail is unmarked so we expect participants to stay in sight and voice distance from the group at all times. A sweep will stay behind the last person and keep the group together at all times.*
  + *We could experience foul weather including occasional very high wind gusts at times. Even if you personally could move quickly and safely in these conditions, you’re asked to give first priority to helping other group members who might be slower or less confident in these conditions.*
* We will get on the trail early each day so as to have the most flexibility for adjusting our pace and getting to camp at a reasonable time even if issues arise.
* We will get everyone back to civilization safely even if it means we don’t complete the route. The leader will get input from the group whenever possible but will retain the final decision where safety is in question.
* Each person will treat each other person with respect and seek to moderate behaviors that irritate others.
* Each participant will know the route and have the navigation tools and ability to complete the route and/or get out from any spot on the loop in the unlikely event that they get separated from the group.
* Participants will openly communicate any concerns, illness/injury or other issues to the leader before they become serious, and will take responsibility for their self-care.
* In keeping with the Mountaineers activity standards for backpacking, we will not undertake any side trips or route changes that go beyond the definition of a backpack (no scramble terrain beyond class 3) or that go beyond the skills and risk tolerance of any group member, except for the three Tyrolean Traverses which will specifically be overseen and supported by our outfitter. We will not be seeking to summit scramble peaks along our route.

**Trip Style**

* We’ll keep a positive attitude and actively seek to get to know each other and enjoy each other’s company. The leader enjoys both active conversations and periods of quiet on the trail/at camp.
* The leader tends to get up before sunrise and go to bed right after dinner, without organized social activities but with lots of socializing.
* We’ll be open and honest with each other about our needs and issues while being flexible, kind, respectful and supportive.
* We’ll keep moving at a steady pace through the day, and push to complete the planned daily routes, but will also be flexible to adjust based on trail conditions and everyone’s needs.