

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #1

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below.

You round a corner and the first person in line slips and falls a considerable distance down a steep talus slope. The injured person is able to respond to questions but is shaken up and you don't know if they can get up the slope on their own. Immediately, one person in the group starts rushing down the slope to help and another person begins to take off to see if they can find a cell signal. You're 6 difficult miles from the trailhead, it's mid-afternoon and there are just 4 of you including the injured person. (7)

- What are your most critical responsibilities as a leader in this situation?
- What are some of the unique challenges you face because of the circumstances? (group size, time of day and distance from TH)
- What are some of the options available to you, and their pros and cons?
- What do you think that the leader should do?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #2

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the following question:

A new trip leader, a young woman, is leading a trip on a well-established trail that was posted as a moderate hike. Midway along the route three gung-ho participants want to try a more challenging off-trail route (with some exposure and bouldering). One, an older very experienced man with two buddies in the group, says “piece of cake, I’m going to do it” and prepares to take off. Two other participants without scrambling experience seem worried but don’t speak up.

- Why is this a problem? What could go wrong/ what are the possible negative consequences if handled incorrectly?
- What are your options as a leader in this situation? What is your most critical responsibility as the leader?
- What do you conclude that the leader should do?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #3

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below.

Your group is out hiking on a very cold day. The trail abruptly drops off in a steep and icy bank to a stream crossing. You lead on down the bank and across the stream, and most of the group follows you, though the way down proves to be quite treacherous. After you've reached the other side you look back and see a hiker who is terrified of descending the icy slope and won't go any further. They yell across that they want to go back to the trailhead. You go back over and cut some steps which allow them to come down safely and continue with the group; after doing that, others tell you that they were just as terrified but didn't say anything and just went along.

- Why is this a problem? What could go wrong/ what are the possible negative consequences if handled incorrectly? What factors might have contributed to creating this situation?
- What are some of your options as a leader in this situation, and their pros and cons based on your roles and responsibilities as a Mountaineers trip leader?
- What should the leader do next? What should they do differently next time in this type of situation?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #4

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below.

Your hiking group on a trip published with a fast pace turns out to have a mix of some very fast hikers and one person who is slower, falling further and further behind and beginning to limp. Your faster people are impatient and cold and want you to let them go ahead (“after all, there are more of them, and you posted the trip with a fast pace!”). You overhear one of the faster people complaining about the slower person to his friends.

- Why is this a problem? What could go wrong/ what are the possible negative consequences if handled incorrectly?

- What are your options as a leader in this situation? What are your responsibilities? Do some of them seem to conflict? What priorities should override the others?

- What does your group conclude that the leader should do next?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #5

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below.

At the trailhead you notice that a hiker is wearing open-toed “trail” sandals. She indicates that she has hiking boots in her pack, but explains that she’s more comfortable hiking in sandals to avoid leg swelling because of surgery she had as a child.

- Why is this a problem? What could go wrong/ what are the possible negative consequences if handled incorrectly?
- What are some of your options as a leader in this situation, and their pros and cons based on your roles and responsibilities as a Mountaineers trip leader?
- What does your group conclude that the leader should do?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #6

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below:

On the descent of an 8-mile RT hike on a damp, chilly day, one of the hikers in the group begins having some pain in his knee resulting in his pace being slower than the rest of the group. At a trail junction, the leader suggests that he and the rest of the group go on ahead while the co-leader stays with the slower hiker. The leader states that he and the rest of the group will stop after 30 minutes and wait for the co-leader and slower hiker. The co-leader and slower hiker hike for an hour without encountering anybody from the group. Finally, they run into the leader alone on the trail. He explained that the rest of the group was getting cold so he let them go on ahead.

- Why is this a problem? What could go wrong?
- How could the leader have handled the situation differently?
- What should be done next?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #7

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below:

You are leading a 6.5-mile (round trip) hike with a co-leader on a windy, snowy/rainy day. It's possible to continue on the trail 0.4 miles beyond the official end to a viewpoint, adding a total of 0.8 miles to the hike.

At the trailhead you inform the group of 10 that "we'll decide at the end of the trail whether or not to go on to the viewpoint." Upon reaching the end of the trail you ask the group what they think, and half the group wants to continue on to the viewpoint, a few even complaining that they'd done this hike recently and not reached the viewpoint. The other half of the group want to have a quick lunch/snack and then return to the trailhead. You decide to take the people that want to continue to the viewpoint, leaving the other half of the group with the co-leader to eat while waiting for your group to return. After about 10 minutes, you get a call from your co-leader telling you that their group is cold and they're going to take them down. They say they'll wait at the trailhead for you to return with your group, and you agree.

- What concerns, if any, do you have about this situation?
- Do you think the leader's decision to split the group was a sound one? Why or why not?
- What are some options for how the situation could have been handled differently? What would you have done?

Trip Leadership Scenario Discussion Exercise #8

Instructions:

- Name a note-taker who will also report out for the group.
- Have someone in your group read your scenario out loud.
- Discuss the questions below.

You're leading a 10 mile/3000' gain hike to a peak with great views (no co-leader). You posted the hike as having a fast pace, 2.25 – 2.5 mph. It is a hot, sunny day. About 3 miles in, a few hikers begin slowing down. At about 3.5 miles they are falling further and further behind, and the group is getting quite spread out. The faster people are impatient and want you to let them go ahead so they can reach the peak ("after all, there are more of them, and you posted the trip with a fast pace!"). You overhear one of the faster people complaining about the slower person to his friends.

- What concerns do you as a leader have in this situation? What could go wrong/ what are the possible negative consequences if handled incorrectly?
- What are your options as a leader in this situation? What are your responsibilities? Do some of them seem to conflict? What priorities should override the others?
- What should the leader do next?

