

## **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 following questions:

**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. (4)**

- 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 following question:

**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 to descend the icy slope and won't go any further. She yells across that she wants to go back to the trailhead. You go back over and cut some steps which allow her to come down safely and continue on 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 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 #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 following question:

**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 ridiculing the slower person to his friends, loud enough for the slow person to hear.**

- 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?

## **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 following question:

**You are leading a group on a 7-day backpack with an objective of reaching a remote lake that very few people ever get to see. Your group is extremely excited about getting the 'bragging rights' from reaching that spot. On day 2, one of your participants (who had surgery not long ago but didn't tell anyone) begins to feel increasingly weak and dizzy, and her close friend on the trip notices and suggests she turn back, but she tells her friend in private that she really wants to get to the lake and doesn't want to be a 'wimp' or keep the rest of the group from achieving the goal. Both women work hard to hide the person's symptoms and the tough terrain is slow for everyone so the leader doesn't pick up on the issue – until finally late on day 3 the person suddenly collapses in severe pain and can't move. Luckily the leader brought a personal locator beacon and signaled for a rescue helicopter.**

- What went wrong in this situation? What were the main contributing factors?
- 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 have done differently?