

Tacoma Hiking & Backpacking Committee Leader Information

Steps to Becoming a Hike Leader

1. Attend a New Hike/Backpack Leader Seminar.
2. Submit Hike/Backpack Leader Application online.
3. Committee leadership will contact you for the next steps.
4. Required courses:
 - a. WFA, MOFA, or Trail Emergency Preparedness*
 - b. Wilderness (Off Trail) Navigation or Staying Found (On Trail Navigation)
5. Successfully lead a mentored hike.
6. Receive final committee approval.

We request that you go on at least three Mountaineers hikes prior to a mentored hike. At least one trip is encouraged to be with a Tacoma Hike Leader.

*WFA or MOFA must be taken within the first year of Hike Leader badge award. Trail Emergency Preparedness is a condensed course to get you going with basic knowledge while awaiting completion of a WFA or MOFA course.

Steps to Becoming a Backpack Leader

1. Become a Hike Leader (see above) and lead at least two day hikes prior to your mentored backpack trip.
2. Committee leadership will contact you for the next steps.
3. Earn Basic Backpacking Skills Badge.
4. Serve as assistant leader on at least one Tacoma backpack trip.
5. Successfully lead a mentored backpack trip.
6. Receive final committee approval.

We strongly encourage that you go on at least one Mountaineers backpack trip prior leading your mentored backpack trip, but this may be waived upon demonstration of significant experience with backpacking and/or leading Mountaineers trips in other activities or skill areas.

Additional Hike & Backpack Leader Information

To maintain your Hike and/or Backpack Leader badge, leaders must:

1. Hike leaders must lead at least two trips per year.
2. Backpack leaders must lead any combination of the following per year:
 - a. Two overnight trips OR
 - b. One day hike and one overnight backpack trip OR
 - c. One multi-night backpack trip.
3. Be in adequate physical and mental condition to properly lead each hike scheduled.

4. Meet and follow the Minimum Club-wide Standards for Hiking and Backpacking as outlined on the Mountaineers website.

Committee will reimburse up to 50% of WFA or MOFA course for New Hike Leaders. To qualify, you must lead 3 hikes within 12 months of becoming a leader.

Committee will reimburse up to 50% of WFA or MOFA course recertification for Existing Hike Leaders. To qualify, you must be a Prior Year Key Leader or Super Volunteer. These badges are earned for leading a determined number of trips or volunteering a determined number of hours by The Mountaineers.

Thank you for your interest in leading hikes and backpacks for Tacoma!

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