The Adventure Group

Member Handbook

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1 About Us

Welcome to the Adventure Group's Meetup site! In 1986, a group of gay men and lesbians began informally hiking together on the weekends. Over the years, the group expanded their repertoire of events and their membership. While we are maintaining the group's LGBT+ connections, this is an open group. This is also a social group, not a singles/dating group although we have members who met the love of their life at our events. We have people of any, all, and no genders, a wide range of sexual orientations, and a wide variety of relationship statuses who join us regularly. If our events sound like something you'd enjoy, join us! We're here to explore this amazing Portland metro area and the Pacific Northwest and want all our members and visitors to feel welcome and comfortable.

How to get started with the group:

- Explore this document. Here you'll find photos and write-ups of past events, a calendar of upcoming events, event basics, and info for event leaders.
- Nervous about your first event? Tell us about it. We're all nervous when we meet new people or try a new activity. If you're nervous about the new people, why not try an in-town event so you can leave any time comfortably? Nervous about your fitness level? Contact the hike leader. Each leader moves their event at a different pace and they'll recommend the people or events that would best fit your comfort zone. Our event leaders can be contacted by clicking on their name in the upper right-hand corner of the attendees list. We want you to have a great time and come back again!
- RSVP and attend an event. Find something that looks interesting and come join us! If you need to cancel, please do it as soon as possible so the event leader can make arrangements. Please only use the "Maybe" if you're pretty sure you'll be there but you won't know for sure until later.
- Check your gear. We list important gear to bring on each event because we want you to feel safe and comfortable. Most of our events are wilderness events far away from creature comforts so having extra layers, food, and other essentials is better than not having enough.
- Be on time. We leave from the meetup location at the stated time and rarely wait. Plan to arrive 10 minutes before the stated event time for introductions and instructions.
- Bring the carpool fee in exact change. The carpool fee is calculated at $1 per 15 miles of travel plus additional fees (bridge tolls, park permits, etc.).

- Have a fantastic time! Our events are usually small enough that you can spend quality time chatting with every other person there. We all love meeting interesting new people and learning new things. We'd like to get to know you!
- Provide feedback. Yes, this is an automatically generated notice from Meetup. Yes, we know how many times a day (times an hour?!) you're asked to rate your experiences. We genuinely appreciate your response and we do consider all responses into seriously. We want to make these events the best possible experience.
- Lead an event. When you're ready, we have a wide variety of resources and people who are happy to help you lead an event. It's easy, it's fun, and our members really step up to help the event leaders keep the events safe and welcoming. Contact the administrator whose name is in bold on the left hand "Organizers" section of the Home page.

Happy Adventuring!

2 Mission Statement, Overview, Club History

Mission Statement: "The Adventure Group is a group of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, and queer persons and their friends who build community through recreation."

The Adventure Group is an outdoors club for the LGBTQ+ community of Portland and the region. Established in 1986, the club, through its members, provides a wide variety of outdoor activities from hiking and skiing to camping and kayaking.

In the spring and summer, members lead walks, hikes, xkayaking, biking, and other activities. Members also schedule backpacking and camping trips, as well as other outdoor events. In the fall, members continue the walks, hikes, kayaking, biking (and other activities) on a regular basis, but as the weather turns less predictable, attendees are urged to RSVP to be advised of changes due to weather and trail conditions. In the winter, we add snow sports to the mix, but also continue with walks, monthly hikes, and bike rides as the weather permits.

Please check out the Calendar of Events and find out why the Pacific Northwest isn't a "fair weather only" paradise. And here are three more good reasons to join us in our activities:

1. Event leaders have researched the event - you just need to show up with the right gear, water, and lunch to have an enjoyable day.

2. Members carpool to the event, so if you like to drive you can, with passengers providing a carpool fee to cover your expenses. If you don't like to drive, you don't have to. [Note: for

winter snow activities, if there is not enough cars to carry all attendees, passengers are assigned by the event leader, generally on a "first RSVP, first assigned" basis.]

3.You'll have a chance to meet like-minded people, make new friends, and socialize.

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BYLAWS: our current bylaws

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CLUB HISTORY

The Adventure Group was started in 1986, by a single individual. Every Sunday, for seven years, he led an informal hike or cross-country ski outing. These trips attracted a diverse group of people who built friendships as they enjoyed the outdoors. In the Fall of 1993, he chose to "retire" and turned the group over to its members. Your membership will continue this tradition of camaraderie and love of outdoor activities!

3 Event Information

What is an event? An event is any activity that a member of The Adventure Group posts.

Who decides what we do? You do! If there is an outdoor activity that you would like to pursue, the Organizer or Assistant Organizers will help you organize that event. The purpose of this arrangement is to promote member participation and to prevent a small "elite" leadership from deciding what we do and when we do it.

What events are common? On average, the club offers one or more events each week. Here are some of the events you can expect, depending upon leader and member interest.

◦Traditionally, we offer weekend hikes beginning in March and running through mid-October. These hikes vary in distance, difficulty, starting times, and location. During winter months, hikes are less frequent and at lower elevations.

◦Weekly walks throughout the year

◦Biking trips throughout the season.

◦Overnight camping trips in the summer.

◦Downhill and cross country ski trips throughout the winter.◦Overnight ski trips.

◦River rafting trips.

◦And more, as members suggest events.

Please see our Hiking, Snowshoe, and XC Skiing Pages for more specific information.

4 Activity Info

1 About Hiking and Camping Adventures

The Adventure Group members hike most weekends between March and November and members usually have some backpacks between May and September. Members also typically lead city hikes, especially during winter months.

Difficulty.....Distance.....Elevation.....Pace
Easy.....1 - 5 miles.....0 - 800 feet.....~ <2 mph
Moderate.....6 - 9 miles.....800 - 1200 feet.....~ 2-3 mph
Difficult.....10+ miles.....1200+ feet.....over 3mph

- With the exception of city hikes which meet up at their start point, we usually meet at carpool location. See the Meetup posting for the location.
- If the meetup is at a Transit Center, you can park in the Parking Structure.
- Occasionally an event will be cancelled due to weather. If this is a possibility, the event leader will mention "RSVP" in the event description and will update Meetup two hours prior to the event.
- Carpooling will be arranged from the meetup point. We leave for the carpools at the event start time, so please arrive about 10 minutes before the event start time for introductions and instructions.
- There are no bathrooms, cash machines, caffeine, and snacks available at most of the meetup locations, so please plan ahead.
- Please pay your carpool driver in exact change. The amount will be listed in the event description. The Adventure Group charges based on the number of miles to the trailhead, plus bridge tolls and/or park fees when those apply.
- We hike at a group pace that leaves no one behind. Occasionally people will want to hike faster and that is fine, too. We're here to enjoy the great outdoors so take time to enjoy the beautiful scenery, take lots of photos, and chat with other members of the group.
- Difficult hikes and hikes during bad weather can be dangerous if you cannot hike at the group pace. If you are concerned about any trail conditions, please contact the event leader before the event.
- The hike leader will designate a lunch spot. We usually stop for about 20 minutes to eat and enjoy the view.
- The hike leader will also designate a group photo shot. These are a great way to remember the hike.

- Once we return to the cars, we change out of our hiking boots and into car shoes regardless of the weather. We also change into clothes that are less muddy or wet whenever possible.
- If we plan to stop for coffee/snacks on the way home, it will be mentioned in the event description. Otherwise, we drive directly back to the meetup spot. (The event description will include an estimated return time. Of course, sometimes there are circumstances beyond the control of the leader, so if you have a need to be back to the meetup location within an hour after the estimated return time, please let the event leader know.)

1 Our trail safety rules:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Don't leave trash on the trail, not even compostable lunch scraps or toilet paper.
- If you are a faster hiker, please wait at all trail intersections until the entire group re-assembles.
- If you wander off trail, please let someone know before you do.
- If someone tells you they are leaving the trail for a moment, tell the others and make sure that the person returns within a few moments. If they don't return promptly, stop the group until the missing person catches up.
- Please be friendly to other hikers on the trail. Smile and say hello!
- Yield to horses, faster hikers, and uphill hikers.
- Thank hikers who yield to our group.

2 Things to pack:

- Gas fee in exact change
- Lunch and snacks
- Water – enough for the entire hike
- Extra layers of clothing. Often weather conditions on the trail are very different from those at the meetup point. (Extra clothes can be left in the car.)
- Sturdy, appropriate shoes and good socks
- Car shoes and a bag for your hiking boots and/or wet/muddy clothing
- Toilet paper, hand cleaner, and a trash bag
- Something for blisters: moleskin, bandaids, etc.
- Common optional items: camera, trekking poles, large trash bags for trail cleaning, gaiters, binoculars
- In the wet: waterproof layers, something to sit on during lunch
- In the heat: sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses, lightweight hat or bandana, insect repellant
- In the cold/elevation: extra layers of clothing, gloves, extra socks, warm hat, scarf/mask, warm lunch items

- For camping trips: see the packing list in the event description

3 Comfort tips for newbies:

- Make sure your pack is comfortable before you use it on an actual hike. Do a 2-3 block walk with it fully loaded before you try it on the trail.
- Ditto for the shoes. Don't break in a new pair of boots on a trail – do a few short walks first.
- Don't loop a backpack over just one shoulder – share the weight over both which makes it lighter and more ergonomic.
- Drink before you're thirsty, eat before you're hungry. As a general rule, you want to urinate at least once every two hours on the trail. Less and you're probably dehydrated.
- Start with an extra layer and then strip down once you're starting to sweat on the trail.
- Add extra layers before you stop for lunch or as soon as you notice conditions getting colder. It is imperative that you stay warm at your core during the entire hike.
- There are ticks, poison oak, and other hazards on the trail. Learn what these look like and dress to prevent infection.
- Out of breath? Need a drink? Just want to look around you and enjoy? Say so! The group will stop and do the same. We're a social group, not a competitive group.
- Like any other sport, it takes time to get the hang of hiking. Start slowly, ask questions, and enjoy the process!

2 Activity Info – Snow

Although Portlanders are famous for coming to a dead stop when the white stuff falls from the sky, the Adventure Group lets out a cheer and heads for the mountains. From December until the last flake melts, we're out snowshoeing and cross country skiing. And we have been know to downhill ski and snowboard. Whatever you, as a leader, are willing to coordinate.

1 Winter Snow Event Clothing

- Dress in winter/waterproof layers. You will want to wear layered clothing: a moisture wicking base layer (Thermal underwear), a fleece / wool outer insulation layer, and a gore-tex or breathable, waterproof layer (insulated ski pants or rain pants; rain jacket) to protect you from melting or wet snow, or to act as a windbreak (or lighter outer layer when you get too hot and want to take off the fleece / wool outer insulation layer.
- Gaiters are recommended when there has been recent snowfall because they keep the non-packed snow from getting inside your boots.

- You will definitely want sunglasses, gloves, a hat, wool socks, and waterproof boots and, if it could turn sunny, sunscreen.

2 Water

You may not believe it but you will get warm / heated, and will want to have some water along. Note: for camelback users, if there is no isolation around the plastic hose and squeeze/suck water dispenser, the water will freeze in the hose and dispenser.

3 Food

- Some feel they need for "on the go" snacks while moving. You will burn more calories than you do on a hike, but if the temperature is too low, it is sometimes too cold to stop for multiple, lingering snack breaks.
- We do stop for a lunch break, as usual. Hot soup is nice for a cold day.

4 Snowshoeing

If you have not tried this increasingly popular activity, you are definitely missing something. Snowshoeing offers a great way to commune with Oregon's snowy landscape for those who are not wild about the idea of careening down a hill on skis and hoping to make that sharp turn at the bottom.

Snowshoeing takes no special skill. As with hiking, you just need to put one foot in front of the other, be moderately fit, and have some basic clothing and gear to keep you comfortable. Snowshoe trips generally run from 3 to 7 miles. A seven-mile snowshoe is comparable to a 9-10 mile hike, depending on whether there is packed, powder, or wet snow. If you are comfortable with the fitness level required for the Adventure Group's moderate hikes, you should be able to do the hardest of these with no problem.

5 Snowshoe Rentals:

On the way up the Mountain: The group will stop at either Otto's Snowshoe and XC Ski (Sandy) or Doug's Sporting Goods (Hood River) on the way up. Rental is about $20 and includes poles.

In Town Rental Options: If you wish or need to rent your snowshoes in advance, there are several places to rent snowshoes, including REI, Next Adventure, and the Mountain Store. Rental fees and time restrictions vary. Get your snowshoes the afternoon before the trip to ensure that you have them before the group meets. It's not a bad idea to call at least one day in advance to reserve a pair, especially for a holiday weekend or when the snow is reported to be excellent.

6 XC Skiing

Cross-country skiing is a great way to enjoy the winter and get some exercise. If you haven't been before or you are fairly new to the sport, please contact the leader to determine if the location is good for beginners and whether the leader can provide you with some quick tips. You might also want to consider taking a lesson or two before joining an AG XC ski day, unless the event is described "for beginners".

XC skiing comes in two forms – "classic" and "backcountry".

Classic XC skiing means that you ski in tracks that have been laid down. Classic XC skiing is available at Teacup, Trillium Lake, and Mt. Hood Meadows Nordic Center. Classic XC skies are thinner than backcountry, and frequently longer.

- Backcountry skiing sometimes uses the same trails as hiking trails, and offers much more varied terrain – sometimes in meadows, sometimes between the trees.
- Backcountry skis are usually wider, shorter, and have a metal edge. Backcountry skiing occurs at most sno-parks other than Trillium Lake and Teacup. (Note, Trillium Lake has some lesser used, untracked trails that spur off the main loop around the lake.)

Snowshoe Rentals:

7 XC SKI RENTALS

On the way up the Mountain: The group will stop at either Otto's Snowshoe and XC Ski (Sandy) or Doug's Sporting Goods (Hood River) on the way up. Rental is about $20 for skis/boots/poles.

In Town Rental Options: If you wish or need to rent your XC Skis / boots / poles in advance, there are several places to rent snowshoes, including REI, Next Adventure, and the Mountain Store. Rental fees and time restrictions vary. Get your skis the afternoon before the trip to ensure that you have them before the group meets. It's not a bad idea to call at least one day in advance to reserve a pair, especially for a holiday weekend or when the snow is reported to be excellent.

8 General Stuff About Winter Adventures

- Occasionally an event will be canceled. As always, check the meetup page about a hour before the meetup time.
- Carpooling will be arranged from the meetup point. We leave for the carpools at the event start time, so please arrive about 10 minutes before the event start time for introductions and instructions. There is a Fred Meyer across the street for bathrooms, cash machines, caffeine, and

snacks, so please make sure you have what you need before leaving for the event.
- Winter Drivers means your car has snow times / chains suitable for winter driving conditions. Passengers are assigned on RSVP order basis (excepting driver and driver's friends).
- Please pay your carpool driver in exact change. The amount will be listed in the event description. The Adventure Group charges a gas fee plus bridge tolls and/or park fees when those apply.
- We snowshoe and ski at a group pace that leaves no one behind. Occasionally people will want to go faster and that is fine so long as safety rules are followed. We're here to enjoy the great outdoors so take time to enjoy the beautiful scenery, take lots of photos, and enjoy chatting with other members of the group.
- If you are worried that you will be too slow, that is a genuine safety concern for cold weather sports. Please email the event leader with your concerns before joining the event.
- The leader will designate a lunch spot. We usually stop for about 20 minutes to eat and enjoy the view.
- The leader will also designate a group photo shot.
- Once we return to the cars, we change out of our boots/skis and into car shoes. We also change into clothes that are less muddy or wet whenever possible.
- If we plan to stop for coffee/snacks on the way home, it will be mentioned in the event description. Otherwise, we drive directly back to the meetup spot.

9 Our trail safety rules:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Don't leave trash on the trail, not even compostable lunch craps or toilet paper.
- If you go faster, please wait at all trail intersections until the entire group re-assembles. It can be dangerous to go too much faster than the group because you may cool down too far while you wait.
- If you wander off trail, please let someone know before you do.
- If someone tells you they are leaving the trail for a moment, tell the others and make sure that the person returns within a few moments. If they don't return promptly, stop the group until the missing person catches up.
- Please be friendly to other skiers on the trail. Smile and say hello!
- Yield to horses, faster skiers, and downhill skiers.
- Thank skiers who yield to our group.

3 Activity Info – All Other Activities

There are so many options for fun! We haven't listed them all but here are some details about other common adventures.

1 Biking Adventures

Difficulty.....Distance.....Elevation.....Pace
Easy.....0 -10 miles .....0 - 500 feet.....0 - 10 mph
Moderate...10 - 30 miles.....500 - 1000 feet.....10 - 15 mph
Difficut.....30+ miles.....1000+ feet.....15+ mph

1 Safety and health tips for biking events:

- Helmets are required
- Fenders are required on wet roads
- Front and rear lights are required after dark
- Please check your bike and tire pressure before arriving at the event
- When sharing the road with others, ride single file
- Use hand gestures and calls to alert other riders to potential hazards
- Always alert people when you are passing them
- Slower riders start at the head of the group at stops and breaks.
- We are a social group, not a pacing group, so the ride is done at the slowest person's pace. Faster riders may ride ahead after alerting the group leader but should wait at trail intersections or designated stopping places for the entire group.
- If you need to dismount, please let someone know before you do.
- If someone tells you they are dismounting, tell the others and make sure that the person returns within a few moments. If they don't return promptly, stop the group until the missing person catches up.

2 Things to bring on biking events:

- Enough water for the entire ride
- Lunch and snacks (Sunday Parkways and other larger events will have food available but it may not suit your dietary requirements. Always have snacks of your own on hand.)
- Spare tube
- Sunscreen, lip balm, and sunglasses are recommended all year long

2 Culture Adventures

The Adventure Group enjoys a wide variety of events that include outings to the theater or museums, movie nights, potlucks, and other assorted outings.

- We try to keep event costs as low as possible to encourage everyone who can attend to do so. Whenever possible, ticket prices are $20 or less.
- Restaurants are chosen for their affordability and menu choices. You are always welcome at restaurant meals even if you don't choose to order food.

3 Kayaking Adventures

The Columbia and Willamette Rivers offer wonderful opportunities to experience the outdoors from a completely different perspective. There are usually rentals available at the waterfront. Rental rates are about $15-20/hour and include the kayak, safety vest, and paddles. Of course, if you have your own, use it. Kayaking requires the ability to sit in a restricted fashion and upper body mobility. You do not need to be able to swim to kayak. In Oregon, you do not need to have certification to kayak. Unless otherwise noted, all kayaking events welcome first time kayakers.

1 What you'll want to bring:

- Wear a swimsuit or quick-dry clothes
- Lunch and snacks in a waterproof, sealed bag
- Water – enough for the entire time out on the water
- Sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses (preferably on a tie), sun hat
- Plastic baggie for your phone, wallet, keys, or other things you want with you but don't want to get wet
- Lanyard for binoculars or camera
- Bag for wet clothes and dry clothes to change into for the ride home

5 How To Lead An Event

1. Where do YOU want to go or do?
2. Date / Time / Meet Location.
3. Event Description (Event Numbers and description).
4. How far is the event from the meet location?
5. Are there any tolls?
6. Is there a use fee? Will you need a pass or permit?
7. Gas Fee
8. Posting an Event (Event Descriptions).
9. Schedule the Event
10. Member RSVPs / Questions.

11. Day Before Event.
12. Morning of the Event / Departure
13. At the event location
14. Back at the Trailhead
15. Back home

Event Leader's Guide, by member Chris (Rev. 2 posted 8/25/14)

1 1. Where do YOU want to go or do?

Since the leader gets to the pick the activity, it should be a place you want to go to. Don't worry about whether enough folks will RSVP; we aren't going for numbers on the events. If only a few people go, that's fine. it's a different experience.

We are always looking for leaders for "intro" or "easy level" activities, such as an easy hike or walk. We have lots of members and many may be starting on the road to recreation or may not be familiar with the type of activity you want to lead.

Some prefer to go where they have gone before. That's not required; it is your comfort level. For example: if it is one of the top 100 hikes in the William Sullivan's 100 NW Hiking Trails, the trail will be so well used because he published it, that it will be a pretty easy trail to follow.

If you want some suggestions and descriptions, see **Event Resources** for outdoor event listings and descriptions. If you want some suggestions, contact ag.membership@yahoo.com.

2 2. Date / Time / Meet Location.

Pick a date and time you want to go. Traditionally our outdoor events meet for carpooling at Gateway Transit Center (across from the Trimet Parking Structure, on the Oregon Clinic side) at 9 a.m., but that's up to you. You can leave earlier, or later. In choosing a meet location, it is helpful if the location has good auto and transit access. In picking the time, it should be one where you can get there about 10 minutes beforehand, to meet early arrivals and be ready for an "on time" departure.

You might pick a date where there is already another AG event posted; ideally the event would be different from the other one, in terms of either activity or skill level. For example, a hike and a kayak can be at the same time, or two hikes,

with one easy and one difficult is OK. If the events would compete for the same skill level, we would ask you to pick another date / time.

The default meeting location is at Gateway Transit Center, next to the (closed) coffee shop in the Oregon Clinic building, across from the 3 story parking structure: 1200 NE 99th Ave., Portland, OR. Attendees can park in the Tri-met Parking structure.

3 3. Event Description (Event Numbers and description).

For outdoor events that are self-powered (walking, hiking, kayaking, biking, etc), how far, how high, and what pace are information that people like to know. It also sets the expected ability for the attendee at the event.

A short description of the event is nice. See example below.

See **Event Resources** . We have some event description templates for events we have done in the past. Many times if the group has had a prior event, you can use the description as written, or tweak it for your event. The description doesn't have to be a guidebook description; the goal is to let people know what to expect and peak their interest to go.

For hiking descriptions in the William Sullivan trail books, note if there is "difficulty" rating: Easy, Moderate, Difficult. There is a "hike difficulty calculator" at NWHiker.com. And if you want to figure calories burned, see this link.

4 4. How far is the event from the meet location?

If people will be meeting up in town and carpooling to the event, they want to know what the gas fee is (See below). Also, you'll need to know how far away the location is, so you can estimate travel time, in order to give an Estimate Return Time.

I use Google Maps to give me the distance from the meet-up location to the activity location.

5 5. Are there any tolls?

For example, the toll for crossing the Columbia River at Cascade Locks is $1 each way.

6 6. Is there a use fee? Will you need a pass or permit?

The club has two:

- NW Forest Parking Passes (hiking; mtn biking).Check to see if you'll need a state or federal permit for parking or day use. NW Forest Pass
- Sno-Park permits (skiing; snowshoeing)

If you need a NW Forest Pass or Sno-Park permit, check with ag.membership@yahoo.com and there may be some club permits available for pick-up near Hollywood Fred Meyers.

7. Gas Fee.

The gas fee is based on the cost of one gallon of gas and the vehicle mileage. It is assumed that the vehicle gets 20 miles per gallon of gas. and that there are two passengers (plus driver) in the vehicle. [The driver doesn't actually pay the gas fee because the driver already paid the driver's share when they bought the gas.] Method of Calculation: $/gallon = 20 miles; so divide $/gallon by 3 = $/person = 20 miles; then to calculate how many miles for $1, divide 1 by $/person for a decimal, multiple 20 by same decimal. Example: Gas equals $4.50/gallon. $4.50 / 3 = $1.5 per person equals 20 miles. Divide 1/1.5 = .66666 x 20 = 13.33, then round.

The Board approves a change in the gas fee calculation periodically, when the price of regular gas changes. All fees are in dollar increments.

You may **use this formula to determine it: Total RT Miles / [miles = $1] = Gas Fee** (add Extra Fees such as bridge tolls, etc.); **rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount.**

Example: Gas is $3.50 / gallon, so $1 = 17 miles. 55 miles is calculated as follows: 55 / 17 = $3.23, rounded down to $3.00. 100 miles is: 100 / 17 = $5.88, rounded up to $6.00.

Some hikes will require extra fees (for example, for bridge tolls and/or PNW Forest // Washington Day Parking passes). These fees will be split equally among the driver and all passengers. The trip descriptions for such hikes should include the amount of these extra fees.

AAA Average Cost of Gas / Portland (Guideline)

Gallon Cost: Miles per $1

$2.00 : 30

$2.50 : 24

$3.00 : 20

$3.50 : 17

$4.00 : 15

$4.50 : 13

$5.00 : 12

$5.50: 11

$6.00: 10

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Permit Parking Fee

Permit Fee: Now that USFS PNW Forest Pass and Washington Discovery Pass are limited to two vehicle license plates per pass, the AG can no longer buy annual passes and pass them between hike leaders. For consistency (and given that we don't charge dues), the 2018 Board also extended this policy to Sno-Park permits. The Event Leader must plan to either purchase a $5 daily pass (except for Washington Discover Pass, which is an outrageous $11.50/daily or Washington Sno-Park, which is an even more outrageous $20.00) for each vehicle and collect reimbursement for the daily pass, or if the driver has an annual pass, the driver is entitled to add the $5 daily fee (Washington Discover Pass - $11.50 / Sno-Park - $20.00!) to the gas fee. If you liked the old system, write your congressman / Washington representative. FYI, the permit fees are (supposed to) go back into the agency to do trail, trailhead parking improvements, and snow plowing.

Leaders:

USFS NW Forest Parking Pass: Some trailheads have a fee box, but unless you know, don't depend on that. You can search for businesses that sell passes at the USFS website, or you can buy an online ePass not more than 2 days prior and print it out at home, at https://www.fs.usda.g.... Unfortunately, the ePass has to be printed out, rather than merely writing the receipt number on a piece of paper so the ePass must be purchased prior to leaving for the event.

- Washington Discover Pass: Vendor Locations / Online Day Pass
- Oregon Sno-Park: vendor locations / No online same day sales
- Washington Sno-Park:vendor locations and same day sales

7 8. Posting an Event.

Now you are ready to post an event on the AG calendar.

- Go to "Our Calendar" (see navigational menu on left)
- Select "Schedule a New Meetup"
- *"What Should We Do":* Type of Activity and Name of Event or Location. For example: HIKE: Angel's Rest
- *Date and Time:* Select the date. That will then allow you to put in the the start time and the estimated end time. Tips: (a) Travel Time: figure departing the meet location about 10 minutes after posted time; (b) 45

miles / 1 hour driving time average, adjust for single lane, forest service roads, dirt roads, etc.; (c) hike or snowshoe time for moderate pace is 2 mph (usually includes breaks and about a 30 minute lunch for a 7 mile hike); (d) return travel time; and (e) post-event stop for food / coffee / ice cream?

- Meet location: there is a list to choose from of past meet locations
- *"More Details"* (see example below):

First Paragraph - One Line: Event Stats. For example: 7m / 1500' / moderate pace Moderate. (For standardization, abbreviate miles to "m"; elevation gain or loss in feet is abbreviated to " ' ". Pace: Gentle, Steady with breaks; Aggressive
Second Paragraph: The gas fee amount using the Gas Fee Calculator.
Third Paragraph: Your name and contact phone number (the one you will be using the day of the event, in case people are running late and need to call you).
Fourth Paragraph: A short description of the expected highlights.
Fifth Paragraph: Guest Clause

Example:

==========
HIKE: Angels Rest
4.4 miles / 1500 ft / Pace: steady with breaks; Moderate
Gas Fee: $3.00
Leader: Evan Boone 503-567-6253

This is a close-in, popular, and quick hike.

Angels Rest juts like a balcony above the western Columbia Gorge. The trail to this rocky bluff was over swept by a 1991 wildfire, so it traverses an interesting mosaic of forest types. Most of the woods were untouched, while in many areas only the underbrush burned, clearing the forest floor for wildflowers. On a few ridges the trees themselves burned, opening new viewpoints.

Guests? Attendance by guest indicates that guest has read and agrees to Liability Release Agreement.
==========

8 9. Schedule the Event:

When you have the posting details complete per step 8 above, select "Schedule this Meetup". Don't worry... it doesn't get announced to the membership yet. It is placed in "Suggested" Meetups on the calendar page. That also generates an email to me (Event

Coordinator). I then go into the event posting to double check for details, format, and to add the "where to find us" at the meetup location.

If you are meeting somewhere other than Gateway Transit Center, please send me an email with the specific location where people will find you. Examples: At the SW corner of the intersection; At the west side of the MAX station.

If you want the members to answer a question at the time of RSVP, let me know at ag.membership@yahoo.com what question(s) you want. Examples:

Winter Snow Event: Can you drive if needed (car has snow tires or chains)?

Separate Registration and Payment at Event Site, i.e., kayak rental: Have you already or will you shortly contact Scappoose Bay Kayaking (www.scappoosebaykayaking.com) to reserve your kayak, or do you have your own kayak?

Second Meetup Location: Will you be meeting at Hollywood Fred Meyer or Sunset MAX TC?

Once the posting has been reviewed, I then "Announce" it. That generates the email notice to the members of your event.

I also list you as the Event Host. Once you are the Event Host, you can go back to the event posting and edit the posting.

9 10. Member RSVPs / Questions.

You will get notified as members RSVP to attend, or if they change their RSVP to "no". If members have questions, they will either email you directly or will post a question on the event's discussion board. Either way you will get an email letting you know of the question.

10 11. Day Before Event.

a. Weather? Might weather be a factor in Go/No Go? Here is a link to the National Weather Service, and you can then either put in the nearby city or move the map to the location. If you decide to go to another location, notify your RSVPs (you can use the comment box on the event), then "cancel" the event rather than delete it (a strikethrough will show on the calendar), and do a new event posting. Some folks who signed up for the original event may decide not to go, but you may pick up new folks who prefer the new location.

If it might be looking questionable, but it is a go, you might also put a comment in the comment box, giving people what the weather is and that this is is a "go" for their planning and clothing purposes.

b. Go to the "Tools" box on the event, top right hand side. The drop down menu lets you print an attendee list, which is helpful. (BUT check it again the morning of the event, as there may be a change.)

c. Get your map(s) together, or other material for the event.

d. Prepare directions to the event location, if needed. Make copies as needed. Put your cell phone number on the directions, so the driver/passenger can contact you if needed.

11 12. Morning of the Event / Departure

a. Re-check your attendee list.

b. Make sure you have your passes / permits / maps / directions to event location.

c. Arrive a the meet location about 10 minutes early. Use the maps as a way to indicate that this is a meet location for the event. Also looking "official" helps.

d. As people arrive, help with introductions.

e. Carpool drivers. As people are mingling around, ask who is willing to drive if additional drivers are needed. Try to balance the number of passengers between the cars, i.e., if 6 people total, assigned so it is 3/3, rather than 4/2. That way the gas fee is fairly split amongst the drivers.

Go over the directions to the event location with the drivers. And exchange cell phone numbers.

f. When to leave? No sooner than the scheduled time (in case people who did not RSVP show up). If a listed person does not show by the scheduled time, you can wait a few more minutes (5), but be respectful of those that arrived on time. If you can send a "waited for your arrival, but had to leave" email to the person who did not show, that would be helpful, so they will know you have left (maybe they can email back and arrange to meet at the trailhead). At the very least, it reminds folks to change their RSVP status if they aren't going to show because it inconveniences others.

Note: For last minute RSVP cancellations, best to check the meetup.com event page, rather than await an email to you. The email can be 30 minutes or more behind the times.

12 13. At the event location

a. Make sure everyone made it. Obviously if they didn't, call the cell phone numbers.

b. If car permits are required, check that all vehicles have them displayed or remind the drivers.

c. As people are standing around, have people re-introduce themselves. For outdoor events, remind folks to wait at all junctions (so the party doesn't get split), and to let someone know if you are leaving the trail, e.g., pee, so the group doesn't leave someone behind.

d. Now, go have fun (but keep an eye on the back end of the group to make sure the group isn't leaving anyone in the dust.) Sometimes it is helpful to lead from the rear -- you can keep an eye on the slower members, and the front folks will need to stop at the junctions, to gather everyone up.

It's your event, so make sure you are enjoying it. Stop when needed, remind folks to drink water, change clothing, etc. It is not a race.

Figure out where lunch will be based on time.

13 14. Back at the Trailhead

After the hike is completed and as everyone is standing around:

a. Thank everyone for coming

b. Remind everyone to pay their driver

c. Remind everyone to make sure their muddy shoes are off.

d. If there is a post-event social (ice cream, etc.), go over the directions with the drivers.

14 15. Back home

Post up any photos from the trip on meetup.com, and it is nice to do a "hike report" as a comment that summarizes the event, both for those that attended and for the members that didn't go (or are new) can look back and see what they missed.

Return any permits borrowed -- contact ag.membership@yahoo.com for mailing address or make other arrangements.

Schedule up your next event.

Congratulations and a big THANK YOU!

(If you have any additional tips that others may benefit from, please drop a line to ag.membership@yahoo.com)

EVENT LEADERS GUIDE: Member Chris has compiled a comprehensive information resource for Event Leaders. Chris has been a member of the Adventure Group for over 10 years, has led countless hikes and backpacks, knows a lot about nature, wildflowers, and people. He graciously has shares these tips for new and seasoned event leaders for how to lead an event, and what to know and do if things go wrong. If you have any additional

suggestions or revisions, let AG Membership know. The Adventure Group is all about members helping members enjoy the outdoors.

6 Events Policies and Guidelines

To assure that everyone has an enjoyable time, the following policies have been adopted:

MEET TIME: To be courteous to all persons attending an event, please plan to arrive a few minutes BEFORE the meet time ready to go, to allow time for introductions and carpool arrangements. Event leaders plan to depart on time.

PASSENGER ETIQUETTE: Passengers should leave the car as clean as they found it. Please ask about bringing drinks into a car, remove any discarded items when you leave, and a second pair of shoes is a good idea when the trail is wet or muddy.

PETS: As a general rule, pets are not allowed on events. However, event leaders may decide on their own to allow pets. Members should always check with the event leader before showing up with a pet. If pets are allowed, members bringing pets must drive their own vehicle. (Re-affirmed 2004)

NUDITY: Naked participation in an event is not contrary to the AG mission. The Board asked that If one of the members/leaders plans desires to participate in the event naked (“naked member”) (usually hiking, but applies to all outdoor "in the woods" events), we would request they state it in the comment section of the event listing prior to the event (ideally at least 2-3 days prior):

Naked member leading: If the naked member is a leader, then it up to others to decide whether to attend or not.

Other member leading: If the leader or other member is uncomfortable with having a naked participant, the leader or member should notify the naked member at least 24 hours prior.

- If it is the leader that expresses an interest for no naked participation, the member can decide whether to participate clothed or to withdraw from the event.
- If it is another member that expresses discomfort, the naked member should either:

o Decide to participate clothed or withdraw; or

o If the leader has no objection / preference, the naked member should advise the other member whether the naked member is going or not going to the event. If the naked member decides to attend the event, the naked member should be

discrete in regards to the other member, e.g., hike behind the member that is uncomfortable

(June 2018)

GAS FEE: The gas fee is based on the cost of one gallon of gas and the vehicle mileage. It is assumed that the vehicle gets 20 miles per gallon of gas. and it is assumed that the average is 3 persons in a car (2 passengers; 1 driver) in the vehicle. (Sometimes there are fewer passengers, sometimes more. We figure it all averages out, and prefer a known fee before the event.)

See Gas Fee Calculator for current gas fee calculation.

All fees are in dollar increments.

{Note: in the winter, trips to Mt. Hood are a flat fee since the exact location of the event can change based upon weather and snow.

Some hikes will require extra fees (for example, for bridge tolls and/or Washington day park passes). These fees will be split equally among the driver and all passengers. The trip descriptions for such hikes should include the amount of these extra fees.

PERMIT PARKING FEES: (Pacific NW Parking Pass; Washington Discover pass)

The Washington Discover Pass, and effective 8/1/18, the Pacific NW Forest Pass is no longer transferable from vehicle to vehicle. Drivers will need to obtain their own pass. In addition to the gas fee, a permit fee will be noted.

The drivers and all passenger attendees shall share the cost of the daily permit(s) – example: Car A has driver and 2 passengers; Car B has driver and 1 passenger. The costs of two daily permits will be split by 5. If the driver has an annual pass, the driver can pro-rate the daily rate to the members, including the driver. After reimbursing the pass holders for their expense, any excess should be forwarded to the Adventure Group Treasurer for future AG expenses. (Contribution may be made by check, cash, or electronic means, including WePay “donation”).

PHOTOS:

- Anyone who does not want to appear in an event photo that might be posted online or used in Adventure Group marketing materials (website, brochures and flyers, etc.) should notify persons on the event to exclude them from any photos.
- By uploading a photo to the Adventure Group website, the photographer grants to the Adventure Group a non-exclusive right to make the photos available for viewing and downloading by our members and by use by the Adventure Group for its marketing and publicity materials.

- Members should not redistribute photos without the permission of the Adventure Group Board and the photographer.
- Because hikes and other group events take place in public settings, the Adventure Group is not liable for any loss of privacy arising from photography at any of our events.

LEADER CREDIT:

Event leaders/organizers receive a $20 discount toward their next year's membership dues for leading or organizing 4 events in a calendar year. (2004/ reaffirmed 2005). [Not applied in years when no dues].

Weekend Leader Credit: https://www.adventureg...

CROSS-POSTING EVENTS:

Posting an event or continuing events on the AG calendar of events that is also to be an event or continuing series of events of another group is welcomed when: (1) The event is open to attendance by all AG members (gender inclusive); (2) an AG member posts and acts as "lead" or liaison for the AG members that attend, and (3) if a continuing event, the AG leader makes an effort to assure that it will be LGBTQ+ friendly.

CALENDAR v. DISCUSSION BOARD POSTING:

In addition to outdoor event postings on the calendar, the Board has approved the following policies:

- Travel Notices (travel opportunities with AG member) - Permitted to post on the calendar, on the date of departure, of travel opportunities with an AG member. (2/15)
- Non-Adventure Group Community Activities - Permitted on the Discussion Board though not on the calendar. (2/15)
- Social events (movie/play nights; birthday/seasonal party, etc.) organized / hosted by Adventure Group members are permitted on the calendar (2/15)

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER USE:

The membership roster is provided for the exclusive personal use of members of The Adventure Group. It is not to be used in any manner, directly or indirectly, by or for any organization, or person, The Adventure Group included, for commercial or charitable purposes, nor shall it be distributed or made available to any other organization or person. (Bylaws, Art. VII, Sec. C).

GUIDELINE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The AG will not endorse political measures or publicize political events / meetings. Individual members may make announcement about political events / meetings that affect the gay and lesbian community at AG events, e.g., potluck. (2004 / reaffirmed 2005)

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