

The Prescott Hiking Club has a long tradition of sponsoring hikes of various lengths and intensities. This brief writing will set forth some of the ideas that the members have agreed to over time as general guidelines for hike leaders and hike participants. The various categories of hikes that are offered are described elsewhere on this website.

The role of the hike leaders in making the club work cannot be overstated. Leaders open up to a large number of people the wide world of hikes that are available in Prescott, Sedona, Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon and other local areas. Leaders are constantly coming up with interesting hikes to do; this is especially true with the longer scheduled hikes. Club members are encouraged to participate in hike leadership if they are able to do so. The Club has recently established a mentoring program to help new members who would like to lead hikes but don't feel they yet have enough experience.

Hike leaders are responsible for the route and the pace of the hike. A basic task of the hike leaders is to make sure that no one gets lost. This means exercising good sense to make sure that no hiker is left behind and waiting at trail junctions so that everyone knows which direction to go. Hikers should not scatter and wander off on their own. Appointing a sweep is a good way to help keep a group together, especially when there is a large group, or a group with varying abilities.

Leaders usually scout the hike before hand to make sure they know what they are doing. One doesn't have to be expert with a GPS or map and compass, though these skills may come in handy, especially in unfamiliar terrain.

Hikers should choose hikes that are appropriate for their ability. Hike leaders and other members should keep an eye on new hikers to see how they are doing. In addition, hike leaders have the authority to bar from participation people who show up for a hike but appear unprepared or unable to do the hike safely.

All hikers are reminded that they are responsible for their safety. Hiking can be a dangerous activity and accidents may happen from time to time, and all club members must sign a statement that they understand these dangers and their responsibility for their own safety. With care, accidents can be kept to a minimum. It is also a good idea for leaders to use a sign up sheet with contact information in the unlikely event that a hiker gets lost or injured.

Guns and dogs are not welcome on PHC hikes. One exception is that on hikes connected with campouts, dogs may come along if they are within the control of the owner. Discussion of religion and politics should be avoided. These topics may create intense personal feelings that are not conducive to enjoying good fellowship and a pleasant outdoor experience.

Some of the hike groups meet at designated locations and carpool to various trailheads. The accepted payment for mileage is 5 cents per mile when the gas price at Costco is

below \$2.50, 7 cents when it is between \$2.50 and \$3.00, and 10 cents when it is \$3.00 and above.