

Visitor's Guide

Visitors are always welcome on hikes; here are some guidelines for first-timers:

On Arrival: Plan on arriving about 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time; hikers circle-up a few minutes before the start of the hike so the Leader can describe the hike and make any announcements. While in-the-circle, the Hike Leader will ask visitors their names and the number of hikes they have done with the Club. Visitors don't pay anything and aren't required to fill-out any forms; their only obligation is to follow the same rules that Club members follow while hiking.

On the Hike: Hikers walk singly or in pairs and movement throughout the hike is fluid; some hikers prefer a little solitude while others enjoy socializing with other hikers. Conversation is usually upbeat; vulgar language and gossip are rare. Everyone looks the same when hiking so occupations and social status are unimportant and rarely discussed. Because of the informal nature of the hike, visitors don't feel conspicuous.

Rules: The rules are simple: All hikers are expected to stay behind the leader; cell phones should be "off" unless an expected call is urgent, then it should be taken at the rear of the hike; Dogs must be leashed and walk at the rear of the hike. Hikers follow all reasonable directions by the Hike Leader. It is rude to complain about a hike; better to simply hike with a different Leader next time.

Dress for the Hike: Visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. Boots or trail running shoes are recommended for trail hikes; well-fitted sneakers are suitable for hiking on sidewalks and paved trails. Carry water on hot days and an umbrella on rainy days.

After the Hike: Visitors, who think they might want to join the Club, should ask the Hike Leader for an Attendance Card, fill it out, and return it after every hike. Upon completing six hikes, visitors can request an application for membership.

Cautions: Hikers are responsible for their own personal safety. Visitors should choose hikes they are physically capable of completing--all hikes are moderate unless otherwise noted on the hike schedule. Expect to finish a 5-mile hike in about an hour and forty minutes. Don't be late; hikes depart promptly at the scheduled time. Hikes continue even if the weather turns nasty unless it poses a real danger to hikers. First time visitors should consider Leisure Hikes, the Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am, or 2:00 pm 5-mile hikes, or weekday evening hikes, as they are usually a little easier and more predictable than some of the other hikes.