

HIKE LEADER, SWEEP AND RECORDER RESPONSIBILITIES

HIKE LEADERS:

- 1) Hike leaders may be confronted with problematic situations. Decisions must be made within the hiking protocol. Safety of individual hikers as well as the group as a whole is paramount. Do not make a situation worse by unnecessarily exposing others to potentially hazardous conditions.
- 2) Make sure the 2-way radios are fully charged. Turn on radios at the start of the hike.
- 3) Carry a radio or hike with someone else who has a radio.
- 4) Carry the first aid kit or delegate someone else in the group to carry it.
- 5) Familiarize yourself with the route to the trailhead, inform drivers of the route and any pit-stop location(s), and lead the caravan.
- 6) Plan and direct the logistics of any car shuttle or key exchange required.
- 7) Observe group size limits within wilderness areas (25 in White River National Forest, except as follows: 15 in the Collegiate Peaks, Eagles Nest, Flat Tops and Holy Cross wilderness areas; 10 in Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area). Check group size limits for other wilderness areas before any hike within those areas. Disperse the group as necessary to comply with these limits. Certain wilderness areas may require day users to register. Fill out permit(s) at the wilderness boundary for no more than the maximum group size and carry it with you. Be sure that group size limits are not exceeded at the lunch site by having early arrivers proceed or start back.
- 8) Be informed about the trail or route to the hike destination, and give the group a brief description of salient features of the route.
- 9) Delegate and/or direct placement of trail markers and mile markers for the guidance of following hikers. The lead group should include the person or persons who place trail and mileage markers. Those who choose to go ahead of this lead group should know the route and should not hike alone.
- 10) Appoint a "sweep" to be the last person on the return leg who collects all trail and mile markers and returns them to the Leader after the hike. The sweep also ensures that no one in the group is left behind. Provide the sweep with a radio, so he/she can notify the Leader of any difficulties.
- 11) At the end of the hike, collect radios and first aid kit and deliver to the next Leader.

RECORDERS:

- 1) Be sure that all new hikers sign a **Release and Assumption of Risk** form, and place it into the folder in the Leader's Kit. Blank forms can be found in the same folder. Confirm that names are printed legibly on the forms.
- 2) Download the latest version of the **Hiker Attendance and Mileage Report** from the website before the hike or use one from the Leader's Kit.
- 3) Record the names of all hikers on the **Hiker Attendance and Mileage Report**. With assistance of the Hike Leader enter mileage for each hiker after the hike is completed. Submit the completed report for tallying.

Note: If circumstances prevent you from leading or recording on your assigned date, please find a substitute to take your place and give your partner the name of that person. Hike Leaders, be sure to get first aid supplies and 2-way radios to your replacements.