



Hike Leader/Shepherd Job Description

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Since 1980, Friends volunteers and staff have been guiding the public on hikes and outings to inspire and educate them about the beloved Columbia Gorge. We offer 100+ outings annually, with over 1,200 people joining us on the trail.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Hike Leader: Guides the hike, educating along the way. Expected to know the route well and have hiking experience. Willing to share your knowledge and expertise about the Gorge. *CPR and 1st Aid certified highly encouraged.*

Shepherd (aka “sweeps”): Stays in the back of the group ensuring hikers have a safe and enjoyable experience. Assists hike leader as needed. Passionate about the Gorge, and a strong hiker. *CPR and 1st Aid certified highly encouraged.*

HOW TO BECOME A HIKE LEADER

1. Complete and submit a [Volunteer Interest Form](#).
2. If you haven't hiked with Friends before, sign up for some outings to see how it works.
3. Staff will work with you to make arrangements to lead a hike in an upcoming hike season.
4. Attend trainings to stay informed and up-to-date.

HOW TO BECOME A SHEPHERD

1. Fill out and email us a [Volunteer Interest Form](#).
2. If you haven't hiked with Friends before, sign up for upcoming outings to see how it works.
3. Co-shepherd (shadow) with an experienced shepherd (this is arranged by Friends staff).
4. Shepherd on your own (when you're ready!).
5. Attend trainings to stay informed and up-to-date.

TRAININGS

Hike Leader/Shepherd Training 101 (early March): Learn the nuts and bolts of Friends' Hiking Program and “what-if” scenarios while hiking on an eastern Gorge trail. Lunch is provided. *Mandatory for new Hike Leaders and Shepherds.*

Hike Leader/Shepherd Training 201 (mid-Aug): This on-the-trail training is focused on informing you of the current conservation issues in the Gorge. Become better educated about these issues while also getting a Hike Program general refresher.

CPR/First Aid: Offered yearly in Feb or March.

Wilderness First Aid: Offered yearly in March or April at Beacon Rock State Park (16-hrs, 2-day course).

CONTACT

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