

Friends of the Columbia Gorge
2017 Hike Leader/Shepherd Introduction & Talking Points

Introduction

Hello! Thank you so much for coming on a hike with Friends of the Columbia Gorge today. My name is _____ and our shepherd/leader today is _____. *My job as leader/shepherd is to make sure that no one gets lost and we all return here safely. The shepherd will stay at the back of the group and is available to assist anyone who may need some support during the hike.*

About Friends

We're on this outing today because we enjoy the Gorge. In fact, the Gorge is loved worldwide, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge exists to make sure that this national and international treasure doesn't get loved to death. That means first of all, we're **protectors**. We're the only conservation advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting the Gorge. Second, we, like many of you, are **landowners**. Our land trust owns over 900 acres here in the Gorge, providing hiking and recreation opportunities and managing our land for long-term protection. Third, we're **educators**. We lead over 100 outings a year taking the public to places they have never seen and learning things they never knew. We educate people how to appreciate the Gorge and be responsible for its future. Finally, we've taken on a new role as **connectors** through our *Gorge Towns to Trails* program. This effort is connecting the landscapes of the Gorge to its communities and benefitting both in the process.

Closing

The success of Friends' Hiking Program would not be possible without the skills, commitment, and spirit of our members and supporters. Thanks to those of you who are already members of Friends. If you're not already a member, please consider joining today.

So, thank you again for coming out today. I look forward to chatting with you on the trail.