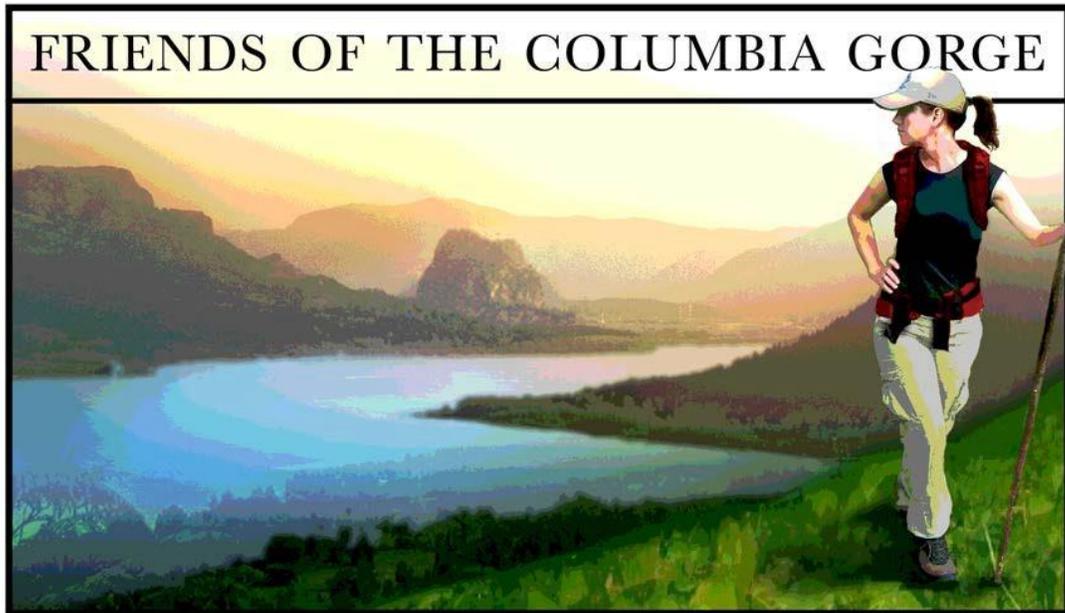


# Friends of the Columbia Gorge Hike Leader & Shepherd Manual



Friends of the Columbia Gorge is the only non-profit organization dedicated entirely to ensuring that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge Hiker Leader Manual

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# Friends Hike Program History

Friends of the Columbia Gorge hikes have been a springtime tradition in the Pacific Northwest since our inception in 1980. Our first Gorge Hike Weekend was on the third weekend in June when experienced hike leaders from a variety of outdoor groups and clubs lead as many as a thousand hiking enthusiasts on dozens of hikes, bike rides, horse trips and rafting adventures throughout the Gorge.

These outings continued until the early 1990's when Friends developed spring wildflower hikes which follow the spectacular Gorge wildflower display from east to west through the blooming season. Wildflower experts and native plant enthusiasts lead these increasingly popular hikes to popular vistas that overlook the Gorge.

In 2000, Friends added a new element to our hike program: hike shepherds. The next year, Friends added an additional hike season to highlight fall colors in the Gorge. The hike challenges were started in 2011 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scenic Area Act and have occurred every year since. In 2013, a new twist was added to the hike season with the introduction of our *Play and Stay* program, which is part of the *Gorge Towns to Trails* project.

Today, trained volunteers lead over 100 outings a year inspiring over 1,200 participants. People who participate in our hikes can't help but recognize the Gorge as a national treasure, a gem to be protected and enjoyed for generations to come.

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## Role of the Hike Leader

The hike leader is responsible for the overall safety of the hiking party and to educate hikers along the way. They should be very familiar with the route and have experience leading hikes.

## Role of the Hike Shepherd

The shepherd, aka "sweep", stays in the back of the hiking party to ensure all have a safe and enjoyable experience and assist the hike leader as needed. This role was added to our hike program in 2000 to provide a better connection to our organization.

CPR and First Aid certification are highly encouraged for leaders and shepherds. Friends provides annual trainings.

## Hike Etiquette

- Wait at all junctions to assure the group stays together.
  - Carry a trash bag and set an example of being a good trail steward.
  - **Go the pace of the group.** This means you may need to slow down your normal hiking pace.
  - Stay on the trail to minimize impact on landscape and to avoid poison oak and ticks.
  - Practice Leave No Trace ethics.
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## Program Guidelines

- All hikes require online registration.
  - Upon registration, a confirmation email with more details is sent within 15 minutes.
  - All outings are open to the public, except when noted as “members only.”
  - Hike distances listed are round-trip.
  - Children under age 18 are welcome only with parent/guardian supervision.
  - Hiking group size is no more than 25 except:
    - In a wilderness area of a “12 heartbeats” maximum restriction.
    - At the leader’s request to have a smaller group size.
  - Participants are responsible for their own safety.
  - Pets are not allowed unless designated a dog-friendly hike.
  - Please leave alcohol and other intoxicants at home.
  - Smoking is not allowed.
  - Leave no trace, take only memories (and photos!).
  - Hike difficulty levels are categorized as:
    - Easy: Up to 3 miles, less than 700 ft. elevation gain
    - Moderate: Up to 5 miles, less than 1,500 ft. elevation gain
    - Strenuous: Up to 10 miles, up to 2,500 ft. elevation gain
    - Expert: Over 10 miles, steep trail, over 2,500 feet elevation gain
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## Carpool Guidelines

- Carpools generally leave between 8 & 9 a.m. from [Gateway Transit Center \(NE Portland\)](#).
- Arrive 20 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. The time indicated on the confirmation email is the departure time. Our hikers are encouraged to arrive early so you leave on time. Don’t wait around longer than 5 minutes after the indicated departure time.
- Have hikers **sign in as they arrive using the sign-in form**. This is a “hold harmless” liability document.
- Ensure all hikers are properly dressed and equipped.
- Facilitate carpool arrangements, thank volunteer drivers and remind riders to

contribute the suggested donation.

- Know the number of cars and types so you can keep track.
- Provide drivers with printed directions and suggest a restroom stop if one is unavailable at trailhead.
- Provide your cell phone number to all drivers in the carpool.
- Suggested carpool donation is \$7-\$12 per rider.
  - o Western Gorge (Portland to Cascade Locks): \$7
  - o Mid-Gorge (Cascade Locks to Mosier): \$10
  - o Eastern Gorge (Mosier to Deschutes River): \$12

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## Online Hike Resources

Please download, print, and understand all Hike Leader and Shepherd documents:  
[gorgefriends.org/hikeleaderdocuments](http://gorgefriends.org/hikeleaderdocuments).

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## Before the Hike

We highly encourage hike leaders and shepherds to **have a phone conversation** to prepare for the hike *plenty in advance*. This ensures that the hike will go more smoothly. Decide how tasks will be divided up and coordinate who will say what at the trailhead briefing. Discuss meet up locations/times, sign in process, flow of hike and talking points, lunch time and location, etc.

- Scout the hike preferably two weeks out so you check on current trail conditions:
  - o Verify driving directions and if there is road construction.
  - o Designate a bathroom stop prior to trailhead, if one is not available at trailhead.
  - o Know conditions and timing (driving and hiking) required for hike.
  - o Think about places to stop for breaks, lunch and interpretive talks.
- Check forecast for day of hike and alert Friends' Outdoor Programs Coordinator if information should be included in the five-day reminder email sent to participants.
- Coordinate who will be meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting locations.
- Review roster ahead of time and note where hikers will be meeting the group. The roster will be emailed to you one to two days in advance (unless otherwise requested).

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## At the Trailhead

- Address group at trailhead about becoming a member of Friends (or if a members-only hike, thank them for their support). Please see attached script for guidance on how to introduce the hike as a Friends' sponsored activity.
- Follow the Trailhead Checklist sheet.
- Unregistered hikers can join the hike if it does not exceed the maximum for number of hikers. Use it as an opportunity to teach them about Friends.

## On the Trail

- Stop in the first half hour for clothing changes, water break; sooner if climbing a steep grade.
  - Count hikers several times throughout the day.
  - Communicate frequently with your leader/shepherd to monitor the group's condition and watch for any physical changes to hikers (wobbly knees, dehydration, etc).
  - At lunch update hikers on the importance of Friends' role in the protection of the Gorge, current updates, and ways to take action.
  - Inform participants to take restroom breaks 100 feet away from water and trail.
  - Supervise the group when passing through dangerous or precarious areas.
  - Stop at all trail junctions and regroup before continuing.
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## After the Hike

- Submit your trip report (mail or email), sign-in sheet, and other relevant paperwork from your outing as soon as possible.
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## Cancellations

- Withdrawing from an outing cannot be completed online. Instead call or email Kate Lindberg at 971-634-1265 or [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org).
  - No refunds are given for fee-based outings.
  - We rarely cancel our outings due to weather. However, we would do so if the weather is threatening (ex: thunder & lightning or snow) or if the trail is deemed unsafe.
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## What to Wear: Layers!

- Long sleeves and long pants are best, along with sturdy hiking shoes or boots.
- It's always good to have a rain jacket. It's the Pacific Northwest; it can always rain!
- Layers! A typical hike is:
  - o Cold in early morning at the trailhead (fleece, jacket, gloves, etc.)
  - o Then climbing uphill and heating up. Stop to shed a layer or two.
  - o Stop for lunch, usually at the turn-around point. Sweaty; get cold; put a layer back on!
  - o Then downhill. Also later in the day. So you might want a light layer to be comfortable.
  - o And remember, it can rain or turn cold (or hot) any time. The weather is unpredictable and can change suddenly. Be prepared for anything!

## What to Bring

- At a minimum: a daypack with lunch, snacks, water, first aid items, insect repellent, sunscreen, Tecnu (poison oak wash), and extra layers for warmth or rain.
- Hiking poles are recommended.
- It's always a good idea to have the complete 14 Essentials in your pack.
- Recommended field guide: *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* by Russ Jolley.

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## Tick Prevention

Ticks are most active in the spring, particularly in the eastern Gorge. We recommend wearing tan colored clothing so it's easier to see ticks on your body. Also, tucking your pants into your socks helps keep ticks from getting under your clothes.

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## Medical Emergency Protocol

Stop. Slow down and think. In an emergency situation panic can set in and distorted decision making. Proceed with the training you have received.

Follow these steps for an ill or injured person:

1. Survey the scene. Do not put yourself or others in the party at risk to reach the victim.
2. Reassure the victim and make them as comfortable as possible.
3. If a spinal injury is suspected, do not move the victim unless safety requires it.
4. Determine if any participants have special medical training.
5. Keep at least one person with the victim at all times.
6. Note the time of injury.
7. Ask the victim if they have any allergies to food or medicine.
8. Administer any first aid needed and keep assessing the individual's physical and mental condition.
9. Call 911. If a cell phone does not work, fill out an Emergency Runner Card and have 2-3 people (including at least the hike leader or shepherd) to take this card to a point cell coverage is reached. Be sure that those hiking out have car keys and all carpool riders or arrangements otherwise.

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## Lost Person Protocol

1. Attempt to make voice contact by using a group yell.
2. Blow whistle in three short blasts.

3. Begin search. Keep part of the group with the shepherd at the site where the lost person was last seen. The other group should hike up and down the trail and around the area yelling for the lost person.
4. If the search is unsuccessful, leave two people at the location where the person was last seen and have the rest of the party seek assistance.

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## Emergency Communication Protocol

1. Contact Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg immediately after the incident at 203-644-2775 (cell). If Kate is unavailable contact Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy at 503-887-0822 (cell).
2. Refer all media questions to Communications Director Burt Edwards at 703-861-8237 (cell).

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## 14 Essentials for Every Hike

We recommend you carry the following 14 Essential items every time you are hiking in the Gorge. Weather changes quickly here and it can be very windy because of the dramatic landscape. The more prepared you are, the better the experience you'll have on the trail.

**Don't head out to the Gorge without these items:**

- Map – we recommend the National Geographic Columbia River Gorge trails map
- Compass
- Extra clothing including rain and wind gear because it's the Gorge!
- Extra food and water
- First-aid kit
- Headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries
- Matches and fire starter
- Knife or multipurpose tool
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Water filter or water purifying tablets
- Whistle
- Emergency blanket
- Printed hike description
- Trash bag for “packing it in and packing it out!”

**Optional but recommended items include:**

- Hiking poles
- Tecnu (poison oak wash)
- Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge field guide
- Dog leash and waste bags if taking your four-legged hiking partner

# The ART of Sharing Leave No Trace with Others

Matthew Durrant, contributing writer for Outdoor Project

Practicing Leave No Trace is a collective effort, meaning that its success or failure at minimizing impacts to nature depends on millions of individuals making responsible choices each time they recreate outdoors. Each of us is ultimately responsible for our own actions outdoors, and hopefully we will each take it upon ourselves to become properly educated in Leave No Trace. However, what do we do when we inevitably encounter those who are engaged in “**Less than Leave No Trace**” practices in the outdoors? To begin with, perhaps the worst thing we can do is start an angry confrontation. Once someone is angry, the chances of them listening and changing behavior becomes next to nothing.

It is probably a good idea to avoid the following tactics:

**Quoting rules and regulations.** Most people balk at regulations because they view them as unnecessary restrictions on their freedom. People generally don't like to be told what to do without understanding why. It's best not to start by pointing out that their actions may be illegal, especially if you are not a trained law enforcement/management agency representative.

**Arrogance.** So you've learned all there is to know about LNT and you're ready to show the world? Nothing irritates and angers people more than adopting a “holier than thou” attitude with Leave No Trace practices (or anything for that matter). Shoving LNT down someone's throat is not a great way to get them on board with it.

Yelling/name calling/offensive language. This does not lead to change. It just makes people angry and more confrontational.

It is important to remember that unless we actually do wear a law enforcement or management agency badge, none of us can act in an official capacity when challenging bad behavior. We cannot represent the authority of the management agency in these situations, but we can use what is called the Authority of the Resource Technique (ART), which has proven effective in getting people to change their attitudes and behave in a more Leave-No-Trace-friendly way. **What ART does is defuse situations through education and understanding. Instead of simply telling someone that what they are doing is wrong, ART emphasizes informing people of the impacts their actions can have and alternative actions that will have a lesser impact.**

Here are some tips to make these kind of interactions more successful using **the Authority of the Resource Technique.**

**Always give the person the benefit of the doubt.** Most inappropriate behavior in the outdoors does not result from ill intent but from ignorance or misunderstanding. It's most likely that the person engaged in the “Less than Leave No Trace” behavior simply does not understand the consequences of their behavior or that they are doing anything wrong at all. Keep that in mind, and your conversation will likely end up being far more productive and less antagonistic.

**Talk to the person and build a relationship.** There's no way to know a person's experience and intent unless you talk to them and get to know them a bit. They may be doing what they are doing simply because they are new and inexperienced. Additionally, people will be much more willing to talk honestly with someone who is friendly and interested in them.

**Use friendly body language.** The way you stand, the gestures you make, and the facial expressions you use can either make or break your conversation.

**Avoid confrontational/impatient body language** such as getting up in someone's face, crossing your arms, and finger pointing. These things will just make it more difficult to reach the person and will likely close off any further attempts at communicating. Try standing side by side so that you are facing the problem together as a "team." Friends generally stand beside one another, and you want them to think of you as a friend instead of an enemy.

**Offer education.** This is where you take the opportunity to teach them instead of just telling them what they are doing wrong. So, for example, you could say, "Hey! Get your dog back on the leash! Did you know that dogs are not allowed off leash in this area?" This approach, while pointing out what behavior is inappropriate, does nothing to remedy the situation and reduce conflict. Another way to say the same thing more effectively might be, "Hi! How are you doing today? Don't you just love being in the mountains this time of year? One of my favorite things is seeing all the baby animals around. In fact, I saw a few fawns in this meadow a few minutes ago. It might be a good idea if you kept your dog on its leash while you're here since it might make this time of year a little more stressful for the little ones." This statement assumes no malicious intent on the part of the perpetrator and explains the reasons for why keeping a dog on a leash is a good idea without actually bringing up the fact that they are not following the regulations. Because they have been educated on why dogs are supposed to be leashed, they are far more likely to change their behavior.

**Present alternatives.** Instead of just telling someone not to do something, oftentimes you can give them an alternative time or place where what they would like to do is appropriate. Or, if the activity they want to do is never a good idea, see if you can pique their interest with a different, more LNT friendly alternative.

The more we educate ourselves and practice Leave No Trace in the outdoors, the better our world will be. While a great deal of information about LNT can be found online, it is always a good idea to get more in-depth field experience with it. Consider taking a Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator course to get the knowledge and skills needed to teach others. These courses are offered throughout the year by organizations like NOLS, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Boy Scouts of America that are partnered with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. You can discover more about LNT resources [here](#).

Knowledge truly is power, and in this case the more we know about Leave No Trace, the more power we will have collectively to keep our world healthy and beautiful for generations to come.

# Hike Manual Acknowledgement

**\*New\*** Submit acknowledgement online: [gorgefriends.org/hike-the-gorge/hike-acknowledgement.html](http://gorgefriends.org/hike-the-gorge/hike-acknowledgement.html)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have received and read Friends of the Columbia Gorge's Hike Manual.

- I am aware that I am expected to follow the guidelines set forth in this manual.
- I also understand preparation is key in providing the best possible outdoor experience.
- If I have any questions about this manual or any other policy or procedure, I understand that I can contact Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg at [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org) or 971-634-1265.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign, date, and return to Kate Lindberg:

1. Scan or take a photo and email to [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org)
2. Mail to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Attn: Outdoor Programs Coordinator  
333 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97204