



# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

## Trailhead Talking Points & Suggested Script

\*This is the time for you to set the tone and intention for the day\*

### Introduction

Hello! Thank you so much for coming on a hike with Friends of the Columbia Gorge today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be your [leader/shepherd] today. This is \_\_\_\_\_ who will be acting as [leader/shepherd]. Our jobs are 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.

- Reiterate the trail information (length, elevation gain, any points of interest, tricky trail junctions, hazards to expect, etc).
- Communicate your plans for the outing experience, for examples, if you plan to hike at a fast pace; if you are going to stop frequently to identify plants; if you plan on having some silent hiking time to appreciate the sounds of nature.
- Add a personal anecdote here - what is your connection to Friends?

It's best to let everyone know what they can expect at the beginning of the day. Spend the extra time in order to set the group up for a successful outing!

### About Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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 treasure is safeguarded for generations to come. 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 1,000 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 to educate people on how to appreciate the Gorge and be responsible stewards for its future. We're **stewards**, offering many opportunities throughout the year to give back to these treasured Gorge landscapes and trails at various work parties in our Land Trust & Public Lands Stewardship Programs. Finally, we're **connectors**, helping connect the landscapes of the Gorge to its communities and through efforts such as our *Gorge Towns to Trails* initiative.

### Closing

The success of Friends' Hike 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.