

Responsible Hiking Guidelines

Effective June 1, 2020
(Updated May 4, 2021)

In response to the coronavirus (Covid-19), Ohio Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency and imposed certain restrictions on activities, including gathering size and social proximity, which were recently updated, as were certain CDC guidelines. Until all restrictions for non-congregating and proximity are lifted, hike leaders and hikers are responsible to hike in compliance with these guidelines.

- 1) Hiking Groups. Individuals should be in groups of not more than 10 persons. If more than 10 hikers attend a hike, the scheduled hike leader shall divide that group into two (or more) smaller groups at circle-up.
 - a) After the scheduled hike leader divides members into smaller groups, he or she shall appoint an additional leader for each smaller group.
 - b) Before the hike begins, the scheduled hike leader may collect cards from each group or make a list of the members in each group for reporting purposes.
 - c) Scheduled and appointed leaders may hike in opposite directions. Or, groups may stagger their departure, with the additional group(s) waiting a few minutes to begin hiking and then following the scheduled leader's route.
 - d) Hiker leaders should not inquire about the vaccination status of members or visitors.
- 2) Maintain social distance. Hikers are expected to keep an appropriate social distance (6 feet) in circle-up, while hiking, and as the hike concludes. Hikers should maintain social distance at restroom breaks, street crossings and at any other time when the group may slow down or stop.
- 3) Masks. Hikers and hike leaders are expected to comply with current CDC Guidelines and/or state or local mask requirements. A mask must be worn at circle-up when appropriate social distance cannot be maintained.
- 4) Follow park rules. Be mindful of new or changed rules or restrictions on hiking in state, local, and national parks. Respect trail closures and parking limits.
- 5) Passing other hikers. Give other hikers a wide berth when passing on the trail. Pass quickly with as much space between each group as possible.
- 6) Stay home when ill. If you have symptoms of the Covid-19 virus or other contagious illnesses, like the seasonal flu or the common cold, please stay home.
- 7) Greetings. Please avoid shaking hands, hugging or other physical contact when greeting others.
- 8) Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your arm. Throw any used tissue in the trash.
- 9) Use appropriate hand hygiene. Carry hand sanitizer in your car or on hikes.
- 10) Report hikes that are split into smaller groups using the format below.

In this example, scheduled leader Katherine MXXXXX appointed Marianne EXXX to lead a group of hikers when 11 hikers arrived for her hike 7x.

June 7, 2020
7x
Miles on Hike: 5

Members on Hike: 11
Guests on Hike: 0
Hike Leader: Katherine Mxxx
Appointed Leader: Marianne E xxx

Katherine Mxxxxx
Marianne Exxxx
Patty Abxxxx
Eric Dxxxx
Laurel Hxxxx
Cathy Kixxx
Michele Lxxxx
Maureen Lxxxx
Joe Sxxxx
Nilo Vxxxxxx
Bonnie Wxxxx

NOTE: Reports of hikes led by a single hike leader for a group greater than the gathering size limit, 10 hikers, will be rejected. No mileage will be awarded for such a hike.