

Hiking Chair

The hiking chair is a parent volunteer or leader, and is responsible for the following:

- scheduling and advertising pack hikes (usually < 3 miles per hike)
- leading hikes, or arranging for qualified adult supervision to lead the hikes
- taking attendance and recording of mileage of the hike
- informing the advancement chair of upcoming hiking awards
- notify parents in advance when their son is nearing the hiking stick award, to find out what to have placed on the stick (just names and/or initials)
- preparing the hiking sticks and other awards, or arranging for another leader to present

Training

From the E-Learning section of www.myscouting.org:

- Youth Protection Training
- Planning and Preparing for Weather Hazards
- Trek Safely

Current First Aid training, or an accompanying adult has this training is required on the hikes. Additionally, they need to be aware of the Leave No Trace principles (<http://www.lnt.org>)

Key Interactions

Interacts with	What you need from or for this person
Advancement Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report hiking awards for upcoming pack meetings • Acquire sticks from scout store or arrange for someone to get them
Webmaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the webmaster information about the hikes so they can be placed on the pack website and calendar • Update mileage totals reported on the pack web site
Treasurer	Reimbursement for awards expenses (hiking stick)
Membership Chair	You will need the medical forms for those who are hiking. The best way to handle this may be to have a place in scout closet where the medical forms are always stored, and just take the entire box. Extra care is to be taken with this to not allow the forms to be lost or viewed by anyone not needing to see them.
Cubmaster / Committee Chair	Pick out hiking venues and routes

What to do When

1. With the Cubmaster and pack committee chair, schedule hikes three months in advance. The intention is to have one hike a month, alternating between a Saturday morning and a Sunday afternoon. In addition, one early-release day should be chosen for an afternoon hike. Try to vary the types of hikes and locations, and try to keep the distance under 3 miles.
2. Send out e-mails at least 5 days in advance of a hike to make sure folks are aware of the details of where to be, when to be there, the length and difficulty (for example, if it is appropriate for siblings/strollers/etc...). Be sure to remind them to bring water bottles and wear shoes that cover the entire foot and appropriate clothing for the weather expected.
3. Take a roll call of the attending scouts, and verify that all parties have medical forms.
4. If there are drop-offs, be sure there are signed permission slips. If you don't want to accept that responsibility, be sure to confirm in the hiking notices **"no drop-offs"**.
5. After the hike is completed, record the mileage totals (just reporting the attendees and mileage to the advancement chair; work this out with the advancement chair).
6. With the advancement chair, be sure the mileage reports for the web site are updated by the webmaster.
7. Notify parents as their child nears the mileage for a stick, so adequate time exists for preparing the stick to the desired naming.

Best Practices

- Rotate the hiking venues so things don't get old.
- Exploratory hikes may be needed if you are unsure about a hike.
- Bring a first aid kit!
- Always have a current pack roster.