

## **The Scout:**

Scout your hike with one or more other folks, preferably including someone able to co-lead or substitute for you in case of an emergency.

- Keep a record of drive miles and key points to include in driving directions, such as planned rest stops, confusing intersections, etc.
- Watch for regulations (ex: fees, wilderness restrictions)
- Verify hike mileage/elevation gain, and choose a suitable lunch location
- Contact the forest ranger if you have questions about trail conditions or access to the trailhead
- If after scouting, you are considering canceling or changing the location of the hike and/or meeting locations/times, or increasing the hike mileage by one mile or more (compared to original published description): contact and review your plan with schedulers Terry M. (hikes and easy hikes) or Sharon H. (rambles) before you send in your Scout Report or notice of cancellation.

## **The Scout Report:**

Send your Scout Report to newsletter editors at [lohikesnews@gmail.com](mailto:lohikesnews@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday of the week before the hike. Note: you should receive a "Scout Report Template" email several weeks before your Scout Report is due to newsletter editors. That email will include stats originally published - for your comparison while scouting (hike mileage, elevation gain, drive mileage, 2nd meeting place/time, driver donation \$). Other items to add in your scout report include:

- interesting sights like wildflowers and views
- any changes from the originally published hike description
- current trail conditions: mud, rocky trail, downed trees, stream crossing, poison oak
- suggestions on clothing, poles, extra water, snacks, lunch stops or lunch on your own
- available restrooms/porta-potties at the trailhead

For more information, see: [Leaders & Coordinators](#) web page:

- "Leader Guidelines" document for more basic information
- "Volunteers to Scout or Co-Lead" spreadsheet to help find folks to scout with
- "Leader Checklist" document for a concise checklist for the whole Leader undertaking
- "LAST MINUTE CHANGES!" document to have a contingency plan in mind