

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 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