

2017 VC 50 Hiker Responsibilities, Rules & Etiquette

Safety and fun are our top priorities!
Here are the “rules of the trail” for VC 50 Hiking, for both leaders and hikers, to ensure we have fun and stay safe.

Hiker Responsibilities:

- Sign up for hikes with the leader no later than the day before the hike
- If you must cancel, give the leader the courtesy of a call or e-mail by the evening before the hike so that the group does not waste time waiting for you at the meeting place
- Each participant is expected to arrive fully prepared with hiking footgear, plenty of water, rain/wind/sun protection, layered clothing, whistle, first-aid essentials and trail snacks and or lunch.
- Because Vail Club 50 is 100 percent committed to safety, we fully support leaders who decline participation to those who are not adequately prepared.
- Hikers who want to go faster than the leader, or explore alternative routes will be immediately considered as resigning from the Vail Club 50 hike and shall not be treated as hike participants by the Leader or Vail Club 50.
- Hikers should not leave the group and return to the trailhead without the knowledge of the leader and sweep, and should be accompanied by another hiker. No one should hike alone.
- The Leader is the LEADER! Unless another hiker is designated, the leader will always be the first hiker in the queue.
- On June and September hikes, be prepared for muddy and/or snow-packed trails. On high altitude hikes, bring a hat, windbreaker, and layered clothing.
- We strongly advise purchasing a CORSAR card available from Forest Service offices and Ptarmigan Sports (you can also purchase the card online). This card costs \$12.00 for five years coverage, and it may save you considerable expense if you sustain injury and have to be rescued.
- Though we discourage the use of cell phones on our hikes, it is useful to carry one should you need to call 911 to summon rescue, even though a walk may be necessary to find a cell.

Leader Responsibilities:

- Preview chosen hikes
- Write up detailed description of hike that includes level of difficulty, mileage, elevation gain, approximate time of hike (understanding it can vary), meeting place and times, limit on number of participants if applicable
- Ensure VC 50 2-way radios have been delivered to you prior to hike
- Make a list of participating hikers with their emergency contact numbers

- Count hikers at meeting time
- Assign a sweep – give the sweep a radio
- Explain the plan for the day
- Introduce hikers
- Do not let hikers go off on their own
- If someone needs to turn around they must have a partner and a radio
- At end of hike ensure everyone is accounted for
- Send a brief summary after the hike to the appropriate hike organizer with number of hikers and how the day went