

# Pack 352 Hiking "Trail Trekker" Program



## Introduction

Hiking is an essential part of the Cub Scouting experience. Cub Scouts need to learn about and be comfortable in the outdoors, stay in shape, and prepare themselves for their transition to Boy Scouting. Earning a single patch for an event does not necessarily give the Scout a sense of accomplishment, so the aim of the Hiking Program is to provide something that the Scout can work towards during their entire time as a Cub. Hikes can also count towards achievements and electives. As an example; we practice the leave no trace guidelines when we hike, so our hikes count toward the Leave No Trace award requirements.

## Program Description

Scouts can accrue mileage by going on planned Pack 352 hikes. Each hike throughout the year will be tracked by the Hiking Coordinator, and mileage based awards will be made at Pack meetings. The Hiking Coordinator is responsible for tallying and reporting monthly for awards. Den, family & personal hikes will not count towards mileage at this time due to the administrative issues around verification and tracking.

## Hike Planning

At least six hikes will be planned throughout the scout year, generally one every other month, or more frequently during favorable weather. Hikes will average three to four miles depending on the terrain, but may eventually get longer depending on participation and age of the Scouts who attend. Hikes will generally be held at "formal" trails that have restroom facilities due to the size and general age of the groups who attend. We are always open to ideas! If you want to suggest a hike location, educational activity to incorporate, or have another suggestion please contact the Hiking Coordinator!

## Attendance

A scout must be accompanied by at least one parent or legal guardian.

Siblings and extended family are invited as long as they are reported for the tour permit. All Pack forms need to be current including Pack Registration, Informed Consent, Transportation Sheet, and Medical.

### Leave No Trace

- Stay on the trail
- Walk on durable surfaces, but watch out for slippery rocks and tree roots. If it gets muddy, and there are no durable surfaces to walk on to get around a puddle, please go through it so the puddle does not grow on the trail.
- Don't drop any trash, and pick up what you do see within reason
- Leave what you find – rocks, sticks, etc – no souvenirs!
- Respect Wildlife – don't chase, squish, or otherwise scare anything

### Hike Rules

- Class "B" uniform shirt and hat should be worn unless specified otherwise.
- Get a buddy and keep your buddy for the whole hike. Scouts will be together at the front of the pack.
- The Hike Leader "buddies" will be chosen from the oldest scouts. All hikers must stay behind the Hike Leaders.
- Bring water and a small snack, and think about bug spray and sunscreen
- If you have a hiking stick it stays vertical. Don't touch each other. I see that, you will have to drop your stick or surrender it to a parent.



## Awards

First Hike – receive the patch and wear it on your uniform (loop attached). The first patch is free, and replacements are \$1.50.

Second Hike and after – receive "rocker" style tabs that go around the patch as mileage is earned (5, 10, 20, 35, 50). The first hike does not count towards the mileage tab. When tabs are issued, the patch will have to be sewn onto a vest, jacket, blanket, etc. The rockers should be sewn to the edge of the program patch, starting with the "5 Miles" rocker in the top left beside the button loop. Rocker tab awards are free, and replacements are \$.75.

As the program grows and mileage is earned, further incentives and "qualified" hikes may be developed and included – it all depends on participation!