

# OLLI Asheville Hiking Special Interest Group Charter

Purpose: The purpose of the Hiking Special Interest Group (SIG) is to

- Foster the enjoyment of hiking in the greater Asheville area
- Provide varied levels of hikes to meet the needs of group members
- Introduce a variety of hiking locations which can be replicated by others
- Provide a social outlet to interact with other members

Leadership: The Hiking SIG is run under the auspices of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCA and the Executive Director of that program.

In order to provide a leadership structure for hiking operations, the following positions have been determined:

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Serves as liaison to OLLI leadership (eg. room assignments, attend SIG Coordinator meetings)
- Schedules, prepares and facilitates open SIG, hike leader and leadership team meetings.
- Revises Charter, Guidelines and other documents as needed

Scheduler Responsibilities:

- Approves and schedules hikes within 24 hours of request.
- Ensures an equitable diversification of hiking levels 1, 2, 3 so that all members have a chance to participate.

Communicator/IT Responsibilities:

- Handles email and phone and inquiries from OLLI members who want to join the SIG
- Assists members with no internet/computer access
- Utilizes [OLLHikingSIG@gmail.com](mailto:OLLHikingSIG@gmail.com) for communication related to the SIG
- Refers questions about individual hikes to hike leaders
- Maintains redundant list of all SIG members
- Maintains and updates the OLLIHikingSIG website. Posts new documents as needed.

Hike Leader Liaison:

- Review and approve requests for new hike leaders
- Arranges for and/ or provides mentoring for potential or new hike leaders

Each of the 4 leadership positions will have a back-up person to cover for vacations and absences. Should one of the leadership positions become vacant, the back-up person may step into the lead role. Vacant positions will be filled from the general SIG membership. All positions are voluntary

SIG Meeting Schedule: The SIG will meet at OLLI no less frequently than twice a year. The purpose of the SIG meeting is to have a forum where hike leaders can share ideas for their hikes, and membership can provide feedback on prior hikes, and offer suggestions on future hikes.

#### Hike Leader Responsibilities:

- Is familiar with any hike they lead.
- Proposes hikes using the website OlliHikingSIG.org. Includes reimbursement guidelines for each hike.
- Leads at least 1 hike twice a year to remain active.
- Assigns a sweep at the trailhead
- Submits electronic attendance and feedback on the hike
- Carries basic first aid supplies, a working cell phone, and a map or GPS of the area

#### Hiking Schedule:

- Hikes will vary among the 3 levels whenever possible
- The hike leader determines the location, date and time of the hike.

#### Hiking Levels:

- ▶ Level 1: Half day, < 4 miles and <700 feet elevation, little technical difficulty  
Pre-requisite: Walk 3 miles on uneven terrain
- ▶ Level 2: Half day, < 5 miles and < 1000 feet elevation, some technical difficulty  
Pre-requisite: Previous hiking experience, walk 3-4 miles
- ▶ Level 3: Full day, 5-7 miles and < 1500 elevation, moderate technical difficulty  
Pre-requisite: Previous hiking experience, walk >4 miles and up to 1000 feet elevation

#### Other considerations:

- Only OLLI SIG members may attend the hike.
- Hikers must complete the electronic OLLI waiver
- Hikers must be physically mobile and be able to meet the minimum standards indicated in the description of each hike level.
- Dogs and guests cannot be accommodated
- The **OLLIHikingSIG.org** website will be used to
  - Join SIG
  - Store signed waivers
  - House SIG member guidelines, Charter, hike leader guidelines, TIPS for Successful Hiking documents
  - Approve new hike leaders
  - Propose and approve a hike
  - Select hikes to attend
  - Cancel/edit hikes
  - Take attendance
  - Provide hike feedback
- Downtime procedures will be available should the website go off line.

This Charter may be revised from time to time as required and based on SIG growth and development.