

# 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)
- Ensures that electronic attendance and feedback are submitted
- Reviews feedback from each hike

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 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

Hike Leader Approval:

- Review and approve requests for new hike leaders

Hike Leader Responsibilities:

- Is familiar with any hike they lead.
- Proposes hikes using the website [OlliHikingSIG.org](http://OlliHikingSIG.org)
- Leads at least one hike per quarter
- Assigns a sweep at the trailhead
- Advises hikers of a suggested reimbursement to their driver, if appropriate (\$2?)
- 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 (?)

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.

There are no term limits for the positions, and all positions are voluntary.

SIG Meeting Schedule: The SIG will meet at OLLI no less frequently than quarterly. 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.

#### Hiking Schedule:

- Hikes will vary among the 3 levels whenever possible
- The hike leader determines the location, date and time of the hike.
- No more than one hike/day will be scheduled

#### 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.

#### Current Positions:

Coordinator: Judi Edelman (lead) Barbara Binder (back up)  
Scheduler: Rei Fuller (lead) Rebecca Banner (backup)  
Communications: Marcia Markowitz (lead) Glenn Peterson (back up and IT support)  
Hike Leader Liaison Lee Orowitz (lead) Lori Postal (back-up)

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