



Orange County Sierra Singles

Angeles Chapter
Sierra Club

Welcome to Orange County Sierra Singles (OCSS),

A club for the active single with a love of nature and the outdoors. As you should already know, OCSS offers many recreational opportunities for active singles and the not so active. Activities include hiking, weekly conditioning hikes, backpacking, camping, bicycling, bus trips, river rafting, skiing (downhill as well as cross-country), conservation & many social activities. Social activities may include movie nights, dancing, beach parties, house parties, ethnic dinners, and much more. OCSS is a part of the National Sierra Club and has been in existence over twenty years. As a volunteer organization, we are entirely managed & run by members. Our dedicated and active members are what make us so successful and strong.

As a new OCSS member, you are now probably wondering how to get out there and join in with all the fun and exciting activities you will find in our newsletter. Well, it is really quite simple. All you have to do is browse through our newsletter until you find a fun activity that you would like to do. It is strongly suggested that you take a good look at the "General Information" section of the newsletter first. Once you have chosen your first event, take a good look at the event and check it for instructions about how to attend or about any participant requirements.

Things to consider:

- RSVP: not required.
 1. If the event gives a location and time to meet, no RSVP is required and you only have to follow the instructions in the event write-up to attend.
 2. Meeting locations are usually given to established meeting locations. You may find them in the "General Information" section of the newsletter under "Rideshare Meeting Points".
- RSVP: required.
 1. If no meeting location and time is given, you will probably find an address or phone number requiring advance signup and receiving a confirmation before you may attend.
 2. Directions, location, & time is given to you after acceptance and sometimes more detailed instructions.
 3. If you must pay a fee to signup, make sure you understand the "Refund Policy" in the "General Information" section before you send in your check.
- Is this hike, backpack, etc. suitable for you?
 1. What is the difficulty, the round trip distance, & the gain in thousands of feet?
Look for the terms: easy, moderate, slow paced, fast paced. Remember that one person's slow paced hike could be your fast hike and another's moderate hike could be your difficult. Know your capabilities before you try a hike.
 2. If you have any doubts, try an easier hike first. You will enjoy yourself much more if you don't over extend your abilities.

- Requirements (lugs, water, lunch, conditioning, etc.):
 1. Some activities require a particular skill, conditioning, or equipment. If you are in doubt, check with the leader.
 2. If the trip write-up states specific requirements, you are expected to abide by them. The leader may deny your participation if he believes you are not properly prepared to safely attend.
- Ridesharing:
 1. The Sierra Club encourages people to share rides when driving to our activities.
 2. It is suggested that riders pay their fair share of gas expenses.
- Abbreviations: A list of the commonly used ones can be found in the "General Information" section of the newsletter.

Now take a good look at the event and check to see if it is a social event or an event that must be led by a leader. An event with the term "Host" or "Hostess" listed is most likely a social activity and no Sierra Club certified leader is required. An event that requires a leader for the control and the safety of the participants is not a social event. It is a Sierra Club led event and will have one of the following ratings "O", "I", or "M".

O - Ordinary: Hikes led on trails that do not require leaders with map and compass skills.

I - Intermediate: Hikes led off trail that requires leaders with map and compass skills.

M - Moderate: Activities that require leaders and participants with rock climbing skills.

These ratings do not indicate the strenuousness or difficulty of the activity. The factors you should consider for this is the round trip distance, the gain in thousands of feet, and the speed of the hikers.

Last but not least, you may want to consider attending our monthly potluck meeting which are held each month on the second Monday. These meetings are a great place to meet and socialize with new people and to see a great program. Programs may consist of slide shows about nature, travel, and occasionally we celebrate with a special dance event. So don't be a stranger, come on out and join us at the next potluck. For current potluck details, check with your newsletter for directions, cost, meeting time, and location.

Hosting a Social Event is Fun:

Have you ever thought about hosting a social activity? It is a great way to have fun and make new friends all at the same time. It's quite easy to do and you don't even have to be a "Sierra Club Leader". All you need is a current Sierra Club membership and to subscribe to this newsletter.

The first thing you have to do is pick your favorite activity, dancing, happy hour, dining out, picnicking, barbecue, visiting a museum, beach party, house party, etc., the list is endless (Try to keep it something simple at first). Now you need to write a little description about the activity for submission to the newsletter. Remember to include a contact person with phone number, directions, RSVP (if required), and a perky upbeat description about your activity. Now that's done, all you have to do is wait for the fun to begin.

For more details about deadlines and how to do a write-up, check the back of the newsletter under "ORANGE PEAL WRITE-UP INSTRUCTIONS". Activities such as hikes, biking, camping, skiing, etc., all require a "Sierra Club Leader". Any event that involves money collection or money handling

must be approved prior to the 15th of the month before the newsletter deadline. If you have any questions or need any advice, contact our Social Chair, 20's & 30's Chair, or any OCSS leader or host.

Lending a Hand:

Now don't forget, this group belongs to you. It is yours and only with your continued participation and support can OCSS remain strong and continue to provide you with all the great opportunities for fun and excitement. Dedicated volunteers unselfishly give their time and efforts to make everything work for you. If you want OCSS to continue to flourish, now and in the future, consider how you can give some of your time to make sure that it will happen.

There are many ways that you can help out, some small and some not so small. When you attend an activity, pitch in and help. Give the leaders or hosts a helping hand by asking them how you can help out. If you attend the potluck, stay after and help cleanup or perhaps you can volunteer to come early and help setup the room or man the sign up tables next time. There are also many other tasks that need volunteers. For example: taking promotion material to sporting goods stores, promoting OCSS to your friends or coworkers, helping organize a dance or other activity or perhaps organizing your own social activity. Other jobs that may be available are publicist, newsletter editor, newsletter mail out, webmaster, or if you are really motivated perhaps you can run for the management committee. Now just because you don't see something here that might appeal to you doesn't mean that we can't find the perfect job for you. Contact the OCSS Chairman and offer you services. You might be surprised to find out that it can be quite rewarding and fun as well.

In Conclusion:

Lastly, you now have to get out there and get active. Don't procrastinate. Get out that newsletter and mark all the events that catch your eye. Mark your calendar and start attending your chosen fun filled events. Don't hesitate or you might miss out on all the fun. If you have any questions or need advice about an event, call the leader or host and he will happily help you.

Sincerely,

Your friends at OCSS

PS

Keep an eye out for our next "Newcomers' Orientation Meeting". These meetings are a great way for new members to learn about the many recreation activities available within the Sierra Club in Orange County as well as Los Angeles County. Best of all, attendance is free.