

Guidelines for Choosing a Check Out Leader

Orange County Sierra Singles

07/30/98

The type of leader that would qualify as a "Check Out Leader" is a well seasoned leader that has planned, and led a significant number of outings at the top level of their rating. Someone who always leads beach walks, conditioning hikes, does the same hike, or easy hikes would not have the qualities needed to check out provisional leaders. In addition, a leader who is usually just the assistant leader would not have the experience and skills needed to mentor, to evaluate and to possibly take over the hike from a provisional leader if necessary. Please remember, it is not the number of years that you have been a leader or the number of hikes that you have done that makes a good check out leader. It is the skills and experience that a leader has obtained that we need for this important task..

The following excerpts from the "Guidelines for Provisional Leaders" by Larry Tidball, Angeles Chapter Safety Chair should help you identify who would make a good "Check Out Leader".

In addition to screening the trips, please also assist in guiding the Provisional Leaders to select high quality leaders to act as their check out leader. Old hands who can offer advice and counseling to help the developing leaders are ideal.

Selecting a Check Out Leader: The outing chair can assist in selecting a good evaluating leader for your trip. You should not choose someone with whom you are closely associated (i.e., spouse, significant other, longtime hiking companion, etc.) Rather choose a leader of experience who will give an impartial evaluation of your leadership, and will provide helpful comments for your growth as a leader. Provisional leaders are not expected to exhibit the same; leadership maturity, poise, group management skills that one expects from seasoned leaders. Commentary offered by the evaluating leader is an important part of the provisional trip experience. Growth in these leadership areas also comes from observing other experienced leaders while a participant on their trips and applying these observations to your own trips.

Someone who has just received a leader rating is inappropriate to use as an evaluating leader. The leader should be someone who has led a significant number of trips at the difficulty level, and has a body of experience as a leader that will help support your decisions, and finally act as a safety back up if needed.

If you feel that you have the qualities and experience needed to be a "Check Out Leader", please send a short resume of your experience & skills to the OCSS Outings & Safety Chair for approval. This resume should describe how your skills & any additional training taken, such as BMTC or WTC, satisfies the "Check Out Leader" requirements. A list of events led is not sufficient. Thank you for considering doing this vital task of aiding provisional leaders in their efforts to become certified leaders.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Weimer

Ronald A. Weimer,
OCSS Outings/Safety Chair