

LAKE PLACID OUTING CLUB



LPOC Basic Leadership Principles *

After many years of collaboration among the LPOC Board of Directors and our Parent Leaders at large:
We agree to the following twelve principles: * For more detail see “Parents’ Primer” at lakeplacidoutingclub.org

- For Safety:**
- 1.) No stone throwing. Fatalities in the Adirondacks are rare, especially in summer, but one of the more recent was attributable to a head injury caused by stone throwing among a camp group at Lake Colden.
 - 2.) No head-first diving anytime, anywhere.
 - 3.) Keep group together at all times. This usually requires one parent-leader at the front and one at the rear of the line. Another recent summer fatality was the direct result of a strung-out college outing club group in which one member lost the trail descending Snowy Mountain and fell off a ledge.
 - 4.) That the above group was running contributed further to the above fatal accident. We agree there is to be no running on LPOC trips.
 - 5.) A maximum party size of 12 including leaders; 8 for overnight in the High Peaks & St. Regis Canoe Regions, except on private land. For other areas contact appropriate ranger.
 - a) Practical: For many years our goal has been a one-to-three ratio, or up to 9 kids with no fewer than 3 parents.
 - b) Legal: If two LPOC parties are on the same route, or less than one mile apart (for example, a double traverse of Hurricane with one party beginning on Route 9N, the other beginning at Crow clearing), the maximum size of the **combined parties** is 15.
 - 6.) Assemble trip groups away from traffic. Another recent Adirondack hiker fatality occurred when a 5-year-old boy hiking with his parents stepped into the path of a car at the Giant trailhead near Chapel Pond.
 - 7.) Wear approved Type III PFDs in canoes and kayaks at all times.
 - 8.) Restrict group within a bounded area, and to the “Buddy System”, when allowing any freedom of movement around water or at a summit. Another summer fatality occurred among a camp group at Rocky Falls when one member fell face first and was knocked unconscious in shallow water out of sight of the group.
- For Stewardship:**
- 9.) Hike in the middle of the trail in single file to avoid trampling plants. Walking around mud makes more mud. Wear proper footwear and walk through the mud.
 - 10.) On summits, walk only on rock surfaces when possible and remain on trail avoiding fragile Alpine vegetation.
 - 11.) No electronics. If hikers’ only cameras are their cell phones they may carry them in the off position and use them for photos only. If a parent/leader wishes to carry a cell phone for emergency use only (left in the off position to prevent roaming and conserve battery strength), it should be done only with full awareness of its unreliability in most of the High Peaks terrain. Parents at home need to understand that trip groups are not available for contact; further that return times are only estimates (see “Important Trip Information”, specifically respecting headlamps and bivouacs). Any other cell phone use violates “Leave No Trace” Principles.
 - 12.) Leave no trace of your having passed and remove traces left by others when possible – i.e. picking up others’ trash.

I have read the above “Basic Principles”, agree to their importance, and agree to support them in any capacity I can as either a parent or parent-leader.

Parent Signature

Date