

## Outback Hiking Club of Southern Utah

Final as of: February 14, 2023

### Welcome to Outback Hiking Club of Southern Utah!

**Members of the Club have the responsibilities to review these guidelines before becoming a Member and following these guidelines on all Club hikes.**

1. When a new Member enrolls into the Outback Club, you must accurately describe your current level of hiking ability regarding elevation gain, terrain, tolerance of exposure, and distance. Please keep this information in your profile up to date. This is needed so a hike leader can evaluate your ability to complete the hike. It is also helpful when you sign up to post an ID photo which shows you and not an icon, so a leader knows who to look for at the Meetup location. If a leader is unfamiliar with your hiking abilities, they may contact you before the hike to inquire about your current ability to complete the hike. If so, don't be offended. This is to ensure that you and everyone in the group have a fun, safe experience.
2. Hike sign up is only on Meetup. Only sign up after you have reviewed the details of the hike and are certain you can go. Please do not reserve a spot just in case you might later decide to go. If you sign up for a hike that is full, you will be added to the waitlist and, if there are cancellations, you will be added to the hike in the order that you signed up. Meetup does this automatically and the leader does not influence the order in which Members are signed up. Make sure you have your preferences set in Meetup and Outback so you will receive a notification when you are off the waitlist and on the hike.
3. Carefully review the hike write-up and ensure that the hike is within your current capability. Ensure you can go the distance that is required by the specific hike, and that you can go at the pace specified by the leader. Do not use the hike as a training or test hike if you are not currently at the necessary fitness level. If you are unsure of your ability to complete the hike, contact the leader. Start with a Class 1 or 2, easy to moderate hike of shorter distance so that you can gauge your ability relative to other Outbackers. Make sure you are able to physically and mentally hike at the stated level of classification(s). A link to these [Hike Ratings](#) is on the Outback Meetup front page.
4. If you must cancel your reservation, please cancel on Meetup as soon as you possibly can, even if you are only on the Waitlist. Leaders often make go/no-go decisions based on the number of attendees, and late cancellations on limited hikes prevent other Members from going. Barring an emergency, cancelling less than 24 hours in advance of the hike is considered a Late Cancellation and may result in being flagged as a No-Show. If the hike is a backpack or out-of-town trip, cancelling less than one week in advance is considered a Late Cancellation and may result in being flagged as a No-Show. When cancelling late, contacting the leader directly through Meetup is recommended as a courtesy. Note that a hike leader may exclude a registrant from any hike if the leader believes a hiker would be a hindrance to the group, pose a danger to the group, or has a record of 2 No-Shows. Also, excessive cancellations may cause a leader to exclude you from a hike; if so, the leader or Hike Planning Director will notify you. If most of the time you end up cancelling after signing up for a limited hike, you are repeatedly preventing other Members from signing up.

## MEMBER GUIDELINES

5. If necessary, feel free to add a nice comment or ask a question in the comment section of the hike write-up. Note that this goes out to the entire group so please read the write-up carefully for what you need or contact the leader individually if you have private question or comment. The leader and Hike Planning Director have the authority to delete inappropriate comments.
6. Check that the hike is proceeding as initially posted. Leaders may make last-minute changes or cancellations.
7. A Member should sign up as a Member, not as a guest. Only hikes that do not have a limited number of attendees and are designated by the leader can accept non-Member guests. If so, add a guest to your Meetup registration, up to 3 times a year. As the sponsor of a guest, you should let the leader know the guest's hiking ability before the hike, download the OHCOSU Waiver from the Meetup website, ensure that the guest signs the waiver, and give the signed waiver to the leader before the hike starts. Also monitor the guest's welfare during the hike.
8. Make sure you are prepared for hikes. The leader may but is not required to use a satellite device, GPS, first aid kit, or medical training to be the official support for the group. You must bring water, food, and all of your own supplies, and be completely prepared for the terrain and weather. Outback has a list of [recommended items that you should bring on your hike](#) on its Meetup page.
9. Please arrive at the Meetup location 5-10 minutes early and plan for the group to actually depart at the stated time. It is often difficult to reach the hike leader on the morning of the hike if you are running behind, but the group typically does not wait if someone hasn't arrived before the departure time. Such a person would be marked as a No-Show.
10. Please keep up with the group and don't try to lag or find a new route. It is the responsibility of the hiker to remain with the group. Speak directly to the leader if you have any concerns about being able to keep up. Note that is not always possible to provide an escort for you to return separately. Please do not press the leader to take an alternate route. If a hiker leaves the group, the hiker is officially off the hike. Please silence your phone during the hike and do not have phone calls.
11. Many hikes require carpooling. Plan to do your share as you join for various hikes. On long car trips, please contribute some funds to the driver to help for gas.
12. While cross-country hiking does at times involve walking on soil, please avoid causing ecological damage to the fragile desert environment. Do not trample plants or cryptobiotic soil. Try to walk on durable surfaces (rock, gravel, sand, path) whenever possible. Please [Leave No Trace](#). If you pack it in, pack it out. This includes toilet paper and ALL food waste.
13. Dogs are not permitted on Club hikes unless the hike write-up specifically states dogs are allowed.
- 14. Club hikes and trips are not led by professional guides. Each Member or guest participates at his/her own risk. When a Member joins Outback and completes the personal profile, the Member's required full name is the legal signature of agreement for the Waiver, Guidelines, and Bylaws. Leaders are volunteers and have chosen the route after careful research/scouting so please respect the hike that you have signed up for.**