

If you're interested in leading a hike for the Monday Ramblers here are your responsibilities ***with safety the utmost importance:***

- Any scheduled hike that you sign up to lead and then find the weather or conditions are not favorable, you as the leader can decide to change the hike location. Or depending on conditions, or if it's a "Leader's Choice", you may need to select a different start time other than the normal 8:30am.
- The Monday Ramblers limit each hike to 12 hikers; however, we occasionally have waitlists of 1-4 people. We know each hike is different and as a Hike Leader, you may feel comfortable taking a few more people, so we are giving each Hike Leader the discretion to take up to 16 hikers. The 12-hiker rule is done to comply with regulations in Olympic National Park and the Wilderness of Olympic National Forest as well as being able to keep the hiking group manageable.
- Once the hike is announced via the Ramblergram email, hikers are instructed to email you to request being included and must provide their phone number, email address, and their emergency contact person and their phone number. Enter this information into the signup sheet (found on the 'Hike Schedule & Descriptions' page of this website). This sign-up sheet should be carried by the Hike Leader until leaving the trailhead at the end of the hike and heading home.
- Each Hike Leader should send an email to the hikers on their list on either Saturday or Sunday before the hike with any pertinent information about the hike or meet up location. If someone needs to cancel and forgot they signed up it is a reminder to them. Also, contact any hikers on the wait list as openings arise.
- On the day of the hike at the meet up location, assign hikers to cars leaving room for any hikers being picked up along the route to the trailhead.
- At the trailhead, gather everyone together for introductions and any last-minute instructions or questions.
- Recruit a volunteer to be the lead hiker (the person out front, **if not you**) and another volunteer to sweep (the person in the back, **if not you**). The lead hiker should be familiar with the trail in case the route has to be marked at 'Ys' and junctions. We encourage everyone to carry a two-way radio and be familiar with how to operate it, but make sure the lead hiker and sweep have radios, the radios are turned on and are on the same frequency. Also, the sweep hiker and then the lead hiker on the return trip should have keys for one vehicle in case hikers need to get out of the elements when they return to the vehicles. This is very important during the winter months.
- The hike leader must stay on the "official route" unless some unforeseen circumstance dictates a deviation. If a deviation is necessary, the hike leader will contact the sweep via radio about the change and make sure all the hikers know about the change.

- At the end of the hike and before the cars leave the trailhead, the Hike Leader will count heads to make sure everyone is off the trail and in a car to go home. Leave no hiker behind!
- After the hike, please email a member of the Monday Ramblers Steering Committee if there are any injuries, concerns that need to be addressed or other items you determine to be noteworthy. With two hikes a week there is not necessarily a Streeting Committee member on each hike.

That's about it. If you have any questions about leading a hike, please contact anyone on the Steering Committee. Their names and email addresses are on the CONTACT US page of this website.