

2017 Hiker Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey. Following are the results. We're happy to publish many positive comments, and to confirm that on essential issues like hike variety and difficulty, we seem to have a mix that satisfies most hikers. We received many general remarks that can be summarized by this example: *I appreciate all of you who take the time to make the hiking program so terrific.* Note that all the answers compiled below had multiple "votes", not just one person.

Of course there is always room for improvement, and many of you offered good suggestions. In an effort to increase member involvement, we plan to announce a general meeting, open to all interested hikers, sometime in July. We hope you will come and share your ideas, and perhaps find a way to participate more fully in our hiking group!

Don't forget that under the *About Us* tab, you can send in additional comments/suggestions at any time.

What are some characteristics of your favorite hikes?

- Going to areas that I have never been, and are rich culturally and naturally
- Exotic or farther places that I probably would never drive myself
- New hikes
- Locations within an hour from ABQ
- Wildflowers, and leaders or participants knowledgeable in flora of New Mexico
- Scenery (rock formations, water, landmarks), archaeological sites
- Challenging terrain
- Established trails and off-trail
- Educational visits (i.e. Salinas Pueblo Missions, architecture and art)

Difficulty levels

- C +D's. B's and C's. At 75, I need A's B's and C's.
- Longer, more strenuous hikes. Shorter, easier hikes.

Do we provide a good mix of hikes for your preferences?

- Your list of hikes is outstanding. My friends and I use the descriptions for our hikes.
- Good mix of area, difficulty, other variables. You provide excellent information, including updates, for hikers to make their choices. I appreciate that leaders are always looking for, and adding, new hiking experiences.

Do we provide enough information for you to know which hikes to choose?

- Yes... if you read the description!

What makes you hike or not hike from a particular center?

- I go by the hike and like all the centers. Terrific leaders and drivers. Don't avoid any.
- I like the sign up procedures at N. Domingo Baca, and it's a fun group of folks.
- Centers convenient to where I live

- All the centers are good but Bear Canyon has an exceptionally helpful coordinator. I like to hike best with Bear Canyon, but it fills quickly
- BCSC, Dawn, Sandy, Ken, Dennis. Dick Brown exploring the Bosque on long hikes. Ted Cooley--so informative on geology
- Don't like PD Fitness pay-ahead system, going in person, early start, and cancellation procedures
- I like the Palo Duro Saturday hikes for later start time and challenging choices

How could we encourage you to volunteer to lead a hike or drive a van?

- I am not comfortable with that much responsibility
- Would like driver training
- I will lead hikes if I have done them before with another leader and GPS is not essential
- There is need of a mentoring program

Aside from leading or driving, would you perhaps get involved on a committee focusing on your interests or general topics facing our entire group? (safety, hike planning, flowers, birds, photography, etc.)

- Photography, birds, flowers, safety
- I would be interested in an "exploratories" group or committee
- I would be happy to go out with people to preview their hikes, or to look for new hikes
- Yes, will volunteer to arrange classes, lectures
- Hike planning, working on overall scheduling for groups

Are you aware of, and are you interested in some of the non-hike events? (lectures, picnic, GPS or other classes, etc.)

- Have enjoyed the lectures offered (safety, bears, mountain lions) and picnics. Like the potluck web signup.
- Knowing about classes could be helpful. Are they listed on the web site?
- Other things that might be fun would be flower (shrub, tree) I.D. together with a C hike.
- A "mountain" first aid class would be useful
- I don't know how to use a GPS and would really like to learn.

What features of the website do you use regularly? Occasionally?

- Hike descriptions, schedules, sign up info, and sortable list
- I use the website when choosing hikes and also getting ideas for leading hikes. I use and contribute to the flower section frequently.
- Hike reports, list of hikes to keep track of schedules and which hikes are of interest, occasionally need to contact another hike leader
- The website is a phenomenal resource! I research flowers, photos.
- Love the website. Love the hike reports and photos, even on hikes I did not go on
- Adore Hike info, GPS info, wildflower info and links
- The posted pictures of the hikers and the sights really make it memorable
- Help features and resources

What features of the website do you find confusing or hard to use?

- None. Recent improvements have made it pretty user-friendly
- Need info on which hikes require GPS
- Where to find various tasks (reports, flower sightings, other details)

Do you receive the right number of emails? (notices, reports, etc.)

- Yes

Signups, Cancellations and other Procedures:

- I have had trouble signing up for hikes. I always seem to be too late. Is there a rule regarding when Centers can sign us up?
- Wait list system doesn't always work at some of the centers.
- People not calling to cancel isn't fair to those who are on wait list
- I never get my refund from PD Fitness if I cancel
- It would be convenient if all the centers had the same registration and cancellation policies
- Are there any rules regarding whether we can take our own car if the van is full?
- It would be nice if we could sign up for hikes online. *(Sorry folks, can't be done!)*

Other Problems or comments in General:

- I would like to see hikes scheduled later in the day during winter months
- Would like hike leaders to have more flexibility in planning non-standard events
- Where can I address general questions?
- Too many people on a single hike or trip ... don't like 2 vans.
- There are some leaders who are gung-ho fitness geeks vs. ones who enjoy the scenery, rocks, flowers, etc. I prefer a relaxed hiking experience. How to know which it will be?
- Leaders should receive basic first aid training
- Participants must be equipped with the essentials, water, food, clothing, etc.