



## **Obsidian COVID-19 Protocols Nov 5, 2020 v11**

As Obsidians we value the safety of our members and of communities wherever and whenever we adventure into the outdoors. In order for the Obsidians to safely restart our activities we have developed a set of protocols for trip leaders and trip participants. Our protocols follow federal, state, and local guidelines as per our Trip Leaders Guide which states “*Obsidian activities shall comply with the rules, regulations and policies of the agency having jurisdiction of the area being visited.*” This includes rules that apply to COVID-19. In addition, we have developed club requirements and guidelines which address COVID-19 outdoor practices. For our activities to be safe for everyone and for them to be allowed to continue, we must all follow all applicable rules and guidelines.

Since Oregon has eased travel restrictions we are increasing the geographic scope of our trips within the state. However, we are discouraging scheduling out-of-state trips due to varying COVID-19 caseload and restrictions of other states. While we will be having trips farther from the Eugene/Springfield area, we are not organizing carpooling but are leaving it to the participants to manage their own transportation. Below are the specific protocols for hike, climb and bike ride leaders and participants.

### **Obsidian Trip Leaders Requirements**

**Creating a trip.** Group size for most trips is dependent on the type of trip, location and is the prerogative of the leader who must decide how many people he or she can safely manage. Wilderness areas still are limited to 12 people. Leaders should try to schedule trips at times when there are fewer people and at locations not as popular, make sure to check state, county or local park websites for updates and requirements. In the trip description where it indicates gear needed, include face covering and hand sanitizer in addition to any other appropriate gear.

**Meeting the group to start the activity.** When meeting at the trailhead or parking area encourage the group to minimize congregating and the time it takes to retrieve/return gear and enter/exit vehicles. If one of the participants appears ill, do not let them continue on the hike or bike ride. Be discreet when talking to them about appearing ill so as not to embarrass them in front of the whole group.

**Signing in and collecting fees:** Trip leaders will get a verbal agreement from participants and write something like 'signed' or 'X' for their signature. The leader is the only one to touch the paper and pen. Fees will be collected by placing the money in a bag or container provided by the leader. This container will be located in a spot where social distancing can be maintained.

**Ensure participants are maintaining social distancing:** Hikers, climbers and bike riders will maintain a distance of six feet or more between one another. When stopping at trail or road junctions or other such locations avoid congregating less than six feet from one another and be sure not to block other people from passing. If social distancing cannot be maintained when stopped, remind all participants to put on a face covering.

**Face coverings:** Everyone needs to carry a face covering and know how to use it properly. Although we will be maintaining social distancing, our groups may encounter others that do not take the needed precautions. Stepping off the trail, path, or roadway to avoid others isn't always safe or practical. Prior to the trip, remind participants of situations when to put on their face covering since the leader can't always be watching all participants.

### **Obsidian Trip Participant Requirements**

- Stay home if you are sick. If you appear ill, the leader may ask you to not go on the hike or bike ride.
- Bring all your own supplies including first aid, face covering (homemade is fine as long as it covers your mouth and nose), hand sanitizer, food and water. Do not share food with other members who are not in your household.
- Practice social distancing measures by remaining at least six feet apart at all times. When it is not possible to maintain 6 feet distance, use a face covering.
- Offer a wide berth when passing, and if approaching from behind, say a friendly "hello, passing on your left."
- Cover your cough with a tissue, then throw away (put in baggie or pocket) or cough in your elbow.
- Leave no trace: pack out everything you bring with you.
- All participants are to manage their own transportation. The Obsidians will not be coordinating carpooling. The online sign-up page provides information about who might be willing to take passengers and who needs a ride. **Drivers are not obligated nor should they feel pressured to take riders.**