



APPROVED

Board Policy: Participation in Mountaineers' Activities

Policy Statement

It is the policy of The Mountaineers to allow members and non-members to participate in organization activities as long as they have signed a release and indemnity agreement, have met any prerequisites, and abide by applicable Mountaineers standards and rules.

Application

1. Participants in Mountaineers activities must sign a release and indemnity agreement (waiver) prior to the event. This requirement does not apply to indoor social events and presentations.
 - A. A parent or guardian must also sign the waiver for participants under age 18.
 - B. This requirement applies to members, non-members, and children.
2. Participants shall abide by all rules described in The Mountaineers' Policies.
3. Participants must meet prerequisites in applicable organization wide activity standards and prerequisites established by the sponsoring committee. Prerequisites are met through the corresponding skill/course badge(s), or through the activity leader's discretion/evaluation. It is the activity leader's responsibility to verify that each participant has met the necessary prerequisites.
4. Activity leaders may limit participation based on levels of knowledge, skill, physical condition, or experience when that is appropriate to assure the safety or success of the party.
 - A. Leaders must assure that any decision to exclude someone from an activity is not capricious and is based on sound information.
 - B. No one may be excluded from an activity solely because of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, or sexual preference.
5. Children under the age of 14 may participate in suitable Mountaineers-sponsored activities.
 - A. Children under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent unless the division, branch, committee, or staff sponsoring the event has established other policies.
 - B. Children of members shall participate at discounted rates compared to children of non-members.



6. Non-members may participate in club activities with these considerations:
 - A. For activities that charge a fee:
 - i. Non-members shall pay a higher fee than members so there is a benefit to joining The Mountaineers.
 - ii. Branches, divisions, or staff shall determine non-member fees for activities they sponsor and make an effort to make non-member fees consistent for similar activities.
 - iii. Non-members who belong to outdoor clubs with reciprocal rate agreements with The Mountaineers may participate at member rates.
 - B. For activities that are free to members:
 - i. Non-members may participate in two activities in the first year at no charge (as a trial membership).
 - ii. After participating in two events, non-members are required to pay a fee to join additional activities. This fee may be waived by the staff for outreach events or waived by staff for events where the participant provides instruction or other volunteer services.
 - C. The sponsoring branch, division, or the staff may give members and their families' sign- up priority or limit non-member registration on a space-available basis.

7. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for developing a waiver form and establishing a system to obtain signed waivers from members and non-members.

Policy Owner: Membership and Communications Director