

# Hiking with the Klahhane Club

## About Us

The Klahhane Club is a long-established hiking club located in Port Angeles, Washington. Its history goes back to its inception in 1915. Its purpose is “to bring together people who enjoy, appreciate and respect the wilderness; to promote hiking, camping and related outdoor experiences; and to promote the preservation and extension of hiking trails.” The Club meets monthly at its Clubhouse in the Olympic foothills outside Port Angeles for a potluck and business meeting with speakers and presentations. The Club has about 130 members.

## Scheduled Hikes

Club hikes are scheduled all year on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Wednesday and Saturday hikes are typically six to ten miles long, starting with a meeting at a carpool location in Port Angeles or Sequim at 9 am (sometimes earlier) and returning to that location mid-afternoon. Sunday hikes are a few miles in length, usually starting at 1 pm and lasting a couple of hours. For all scheduled hikes, hikers meet at a designated carpool location, sign a form for that day’s hike provided by the hike leader (a rotating responsibility among Club members) and join a cost-sharing carpool to the day’s trailhead.

## Hiking As a Guest

Prior to hiking on a Klahhane Club hike, you must read and understand this document (most importantly the Hiking Practices and Safety sections below). Before participating in a hike you must sign the hike sign-up sheet for that day and affirm that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of these instructions and the “Voluntary Waiver and Release of Liability.” You will also need to furnish your address, phone, and emergency contact information (the name, address, phone of the person or persons that should be contacted in case of an emergency).

## Hiking Practices

A Club member will act as the hike leader for each scheduled hike. This person has the responsibility to organize the hike: create a list of hikers planning to participate (done via email and phone a day or so before the actual hike), answer hikers’ questions about the hike, sign in hikers at the carpool location, give logistical and safety related instructions, help organize carpools to the trailhead, give instructions about the parameters of the hike (length, time, turn-around time, subgroups, re-grouping locations, etc.). The paramount job of the hike leader is to account for all hikers at the end of the hike. The hike leader (usually with input from other experienced hikers on the hike) is charged with making all decisions about the logistics of the hike and participation of individual hikers, with safety being the primary concern. Hikers are expected to follow the hike leader’s instructions.

While hiking safety is essential, hiking etiquette and consideration of others in the group is also important. This includes arriving at least 10 minutes before the scheduled departure time at the carpool location and abiding by the schedule (e.g. turn-around time, back-to-trailhead time) given by the hike leader. In short, don’t make others wait for you or wonder and worry

about where you are. You can pause to take pictures and admire flowers, but don't become a burden to the hike leader and group.

## **Safety**

All hikers are responsible for their own welfare on Klahhane hikes. Each hiker must assess whether he/she is able to participate in the planned hike safely without endangering himself/herself or others on the hike. When contacting the hike leader to sign up for a hike a new hiker should ask questions about the difficulty of the hike. The hike leader may inquire about the hiker's experience, but the burden of determining one's fitness for a particular hike lies with the individual hiker. However, if hike leaders feel that a hiker is not prepared for a hike, they can decline to accept the hiker for that hike.

Safety is primary with the Club. Hikers must follow the hike leader's instructions and not deviate from the planned hike, go off trail, wander from the group, or otherwise be a danger to themselves or others. Hikers should be prepared for weather changes and carry with them raingear, hats, gloves, and jackets, as appropriate. Sturdy footwear is essential. Each hiker should also carry the Ten+ Essentials:

- Map and compass
- Fire starters (matches, candle, lighter)
- Tools, e.g. knife
- First aid supplies including prescription medications
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Emergency shelter, e.g. survival blanket
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Water bottle and extra water
- Extra clothing – synthetic or wool (wet cotton doesn't insulate)
- Extra food

## **How To Sign Up for a Hike**

Consult the hike schedule (on the Club website at [klahhaneclub.org](http://klahhaneclub.org)) to determine what hikes are scheduled and the name and email address of hike leaders. Many hikes are labeled with a difficulty level (easy, moderate, difficult, strenuous). Leaders may change to a different hike depending on conditions and weather. After selecting a hike, call the hike leader (usually the day before the hike) to discuss the hike and sign up. The hike leader will give the carpool meeting location and time.

## **Joining the Club**

After becoming familiar with the Klahhane Club by participating in a few hikes, a prospective member informs the Membership Chair of their desire to join the Club, and sends in an Application. They must then complete at least six Wednesday or Saturday hikes within six months, the final hike co-led with the hike leader. Prospective members must be at least 18 years of age and able to participate in our Wednesday or Saturday hikes.