

TAHOE DONNER HIKING CLUB

The philosophy of the Tahoe Donner Hiking Club is to allow hikers to hike one's own pace. All hikes are group hikes. **This may result in intermittent stops for hikers to regroup.**

- **GREEN hikes** are structured to progress at a slower pace with distances and difficulty generally less than the BLUE hikes.
- **BLUE hikes** are structured to progress at a moderate pace and are generally shorter in duration than the BLACK hikes.
- **BLACK hikes** are structured to progress at a faster pace with distances and difficulty generally greater than the BLUE hikes.

DOGS: At the discretion of the hike leader, and when permitted by the local regulations, dogs may be invited on hikes.

- Dog owners must follow the hiking club and local rules on dogs and ~~also~~ any directions given by the hike leader.
- Dogs not in compliance will be banned from future hikes.

HIKE COMPARISONS: Below is a matrix comparing the various hiking groups.

- The notes are only guidelines and exceptions may occur.
- **Hikers MUST ALWAYS read the leader's posted description of the day's hike (which may differ from the Hike Library description)** before registering for a hike, to make sure it is appropriate for **their** particular skill level and physical ability.
- It is recommended **that hikers** join hikes at **their** level or lower and then move to the next hiking group level as **they** gain fitness, skill, and confidence. **Hikers not acclimated to high altitude are welcome to call the hike leader in advance to ascertain if the hike is appropriate for them.**
- After a conversation with a hiker, or based on recent experience, a hike leader may recommend that said hiker not join the hike.

COMPARISON OF HIKES 2023

Description	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
Hike Day	Any day of the week	Any day of the week	Thursdays & Fridays
Drive to Trailhead	At leader's discretion	At leader's discretion	At leader's discretion
Hike Distance	Typically, 3-5-miles	Typically, 5-8+ miles	Typically, 10+ miles.
Hike Style	Frequent stops to regroup.	Periodic stops to regroup.	At hike leader's discretion.
Recommended Pace	1.5-2 miles per hour on flat trails	2.5+ miles per hour on flat trails	2.5+ miles per hour on flat trails
Food Breaks	Typically, includes snack or lunch stop, depending on distance	Typically, includes snack and/or lunch stop, depending on distance	Typically includes a morning snack break and a lunch stop
Trail Conditions	Established trails with moderate terrain	Established trails that may be narrow, steep, and rough at times	Typically, on an established trail, but sometimes includes off trail and/or scrambling
Elevation Change	Mostly flat trails with slight elevation changes. Sometimes short, steeper grades	More challenging ascents are typical	Often steep and challenging trails. Best for those with a high level of fitness.
Leader	Waits for group at decision points and at end of hike	Marks turns with blue tape and/or waits for next hiker who waits, etc.	Marks turns with blue tape and/or waits for next hiker who waits, etc.

Leader's Speed	Hikes at group's pace	Waits for slower hikers or monitors group speed through conversation with sweep via radio	Monitors group speed through conversation with sweep via radio
Sweep	Volunteer sweep at start	Volunteer sweep at start	Volunteer sweep at start
Sweep Duties	Stays with the last hiker	Stays with the last hiker	Can change during the hike – hiker at back of group always carries the radio
Group Size	No limit, however, may be broken into smaller groups	No limit, however, may be broken into smaller groups	To be reviewed if the group size becomes a problem
Timing	Typically ends late morning.	Typically ends early afternoon	Plan for an all-day adventure
Dogs	In accordance with club and local rules and at leader's discretion	In accordance with club and local rules and at leader's discretion	In accordance with club and local rules and at leader's discretion