

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 manager, 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 any directions given by the hike manager.
- 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 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.

HIKE COMPARISON MATRIX			
Description	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
Hike Distance	Typically, 3-5-miles.	5-10 miles	Typically, 10+ miles.
Hike Style	Frequent stops to regroup.	Periodic stops to regroup.	At hike leader's discretion.
Pace	1.5-2 miles per hour on flat trails.	2.0-2.5 miles per hour on flat trails.	2.5+ miles per hour on flat trails.
Breaks	Includes snack stop, depending on distance. Hikers often go out for lunch afterward.	Typically, includes snack and/or lunch stop, depending on distance.	Typically includes a morning snack break and a lunch stop.
Elevation Change	Mostly flat trails with slight elevation changes. Sometimes short, steeper grades. Established trails with moderate terrain.	More challenging ascents are typical.	Often steep and challenging trails. Best for those with a high level of fitness.
Trail Conditions		Established trails that may be narrow, steep, and rough at times.	Typically, on an established trail, but sometimes includes off trail and/or scrambling.
Lead Hiker	Group typically stays together. Hikes at the group's speed.	Marks turns with painter's tape, waits at intersections and/or waits for next hiker who waits, etc. Waits for slower hikers, divides into two groups or monitors group speed through conversation with sweep via radio.	Marks turns with blue tape and/or waits for next hiker who waits, etc. Monitors group speed through conversation with sweep via radio.
Leader's Hiker's Speed			
Sweep Duties	Stays with the last hiker.	Can change during the hike – hiker at back of group always carries the radio.	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 it ends late in the morning.	Typically ends early afternoon.	Plan for an all-day adventure.

