



# Trail Etiquette

When you are on the trail, whether on an Official GWHTN Hike or on your own, it's good to know and practice trail etiquette.

## **Official GWHTN Hike:**

- Know the trail difficulty BEFORE your hike (read FULL EVENT DESCRIPTION and look up more information if you're unsure) and know your ability to complete it
- Come prepared with everything your Ambassador listed to bring (ie - water, snacks, meals, certain footwear, gear, or special clothing)
- Only bring dogs, men, and kids if the Ambassador leading the hike listed them as okay to come in the Event Description
- If you are able to bring your dog, please keep them on their leash at all times while hiking and bring AND USE bags for poop pick up
- If you are able to bring your kiddos, you are responsible for their whereabouts and safety while hiking
- Always stay together on the trail
- Every Official GWHTN Hike will have a TRAIL LEADER (usually your Ambassador) and a TRAIL SWEEPER (usually a volunteer from the group) - it's okay to ask your Ambassador before the hike begins who will be leading and who will be sweeping
- Always stay between the Trail Leader and the Trail Sweeper
- When hiking in a group, always hike single file
- The slowest hiker should always set the pace for the group
- If you need to stop during a hike (potty break, take a picture of a cool mushroom, get a drink or snack), always let the Ambassador leading your hike know. We will always accommodate breaks when needed and stop the hike in order to keep everyone together
- Leave No Trace - this means leave the trail, the parking lot, the campsite better than before you arrived. Clean up after yourself and if you're able to, clean up after others
- Use quiet voices while hiking, many people come out on the trail for the peace and quiet, we want to respect them and the wildlife in the area

## **General:**

- Treat the trail like a road, stick towards the right of the trail and pass on the left
- If you need to pass another hiker, call out as you are approaching them (ex- "hello", "excuse me", "passing on your left")
- Bikers yield to hikers (but sometimes you may just want to step aside for them to pass)
- Hikers yield to horses - and keep your distance, try not to make sudden movements or be loud when you come across them
- Hikers going uphill have the right of way
- When in a group, always hike single file
- Respect every person and animal you encounter on the trail