

## **Hello fellow hikers,**

**Best Hikes of SoCal** is a social group dedicated to hiking and outdoor activities. We encourage all to develop new friendships and experience in pursuing outdoor adventures.

As a continuing effort to improve our experience with Best Hikes of SoCal (BHOSC), we've come up with general guideline to enhance the quality and safety of the group and our members:

1. Sign up for hikes/events that are within your skill and abilities.
2. You must have a recognizable photo on your profile or your **RSVP** will be changed to **NO**.
3. If you must change your **RSVP** for an event do so within a reasonable 24 hr. period; as a courtesy to other hikers on the waiting list.
4. Event participants with multiple '**No Shows**' or last minute **RSVP** changes may be bumped and excluded from any event or "BHOSC".
5. A clear full face photo of you [without sunglasses or facial coverings] is required for membership. It must be posted as one of your pictures on your profile. Your picture will help event organizers and in case of Search-Rescue, rescuers to identify and help you.
6. Organizers try to keep the group together, but to complete the hikes/events within allotted time, slower hikers will be left behind. Be prepared to find your way back to the group and/or the trailhead.
7. Our Organizers, Co-Organizers, Assistant Organizers, and Event Organizers are all volunteers. Please be courteous when dealing with them; they've the final word over their hike/events.
8. Keep valuables and hiking gear in your control and within reach. When carpooling, obtain up to date contact information and have a clear time and location to meet with other carpoolers, before and after the event.
9. Bring enough food, water and additional gear that are appropriate for the type of hike/event you are signed up for. Try to be self-

sufficient just in case you are separated from the group and have to rely on your gear. Click [<<here>>](#) for a list of suggested/essential gear to carry.

10. Be aware that participation in Best Hikes of SoCal Events/Outings may include potentially hazardous activities, and that you are voluntarily participating in these activities. You agree to follow the directions of the trip organizer and release Best Hikes of SoCal's ("BHOSC") Organizers, Co-Organizers, Assistant Organizers, and Event Organizers from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which you may suffer by reason of participation in Events/Outings with the group.
11. You recognize in waiving this liability that you assume sole responsibility for your actions and cannot blame any injuries or losses on any other persons connected with Best Hikes of SoCal ("BHOSC"). **Further more you acknowledge that You have read the LIABILITY\_WAIVER\_BHOSC, INFORMED CONSENT / WAIVER (appendix A, below) and agree to its terms in it's entirety.**

Looking forward to seeing you on the trails; now let's go out and have some fun.

**Kaz Mohit** - BEST Hikes Organizer

#### **APPENDIX A - LIABILITY\_WAIVER ("BHOSC") INFORMED CONSENT / WAIVER (2015-2016)**

For all outdoor events/activities/outings and snow-related activities, including but not limited to mountaineering, snowshoe, skiing, snowboarding and planned & scheduled by the volunteer organizer, assistant organizers, tour operators or vendors of the above named group.

"BEST HIKES of SoCal" Meetup Group ("BHOSC") is an informal meet-up group organization where outdoor and snow-related activity enthusiasts meet to participate in outdoor adventure events called Outings ("Outings") Activities or Events.

This waiver of liability is an agreement that attendance and participation at these Events/Outings are strictly voluntary and of my own choice and that I agree to accept personal responsibility for all and any foreseen and unforeseen events that may occur during,

including to and from, Group Outings Events and Activities, which are inherent in each Outing/Activity or Event and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing/Event or Activity.

These risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of personal injury, property damage, and death ("injuries and damages") from exposure to the hazards of outdoor activities ("Risks") and travel to and from these activities ("Transportation"). The BHOSC meetup Group, its organizer(s), assistant organizers, Tour operators or Vendors and Activity/Event/Outing participants take no responsibility for me and my guests and will not be held responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur during Group Events, Activities or Outings.

I understand that I may have to exercise extra care for my own personal safety and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I acknowledge that leaving the group during an outing/event/activity for any reason is not encouraged and only increases my risk of Injuries and Damages. I acknowledge that the BHOSC meetup group has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of the Risks associated with the outdoors, snow-related or any activities that may include but are not limited to sunburn, drowning, abrasions, falls, concussions, scrapes, bruises, broken bones, dislocation, sprains, strains, personal injury, and death.

To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY the BEST HIKES of SoCal ("BHOSC") meetup group, its officers, directors, organizers, assistant organizers, agents, Tour operators or Vendors and leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by negligence of the BEST HIKES of SoCal officers, directors, organizers, assistant organizers, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outings/Events/Activities.

I further agree to HOLD HARMLESS the BEST HIKES of SoCal ("BHOSC") meetup group, its officers, directors, organizer, assistant organizers, tour operators, Vendors, agents, and leaders from any claims, damages, injuries or losses caused by my own negligence, negligence of the Organizer and Assistant Organizers, Vendors or Tour operators and / or the negligence of another BHOSC Group's participant while on the Outings. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outings.