

Field Trip Leader Guidelines: Chipeta Chapter, CAS

Any Chipeta Chapter member can lead a field trip, but must follow the guidelines listed below. Leaders must do the required recon, and have specific knowledge of site location(s). Members who have an idea for a field trip and want to lead it should present their idea to the Field Trip Committee so that the date(s) doesn't conflict with other chapter activities. A rating system has been developed to assist members in deciding whether a field trip is within their abilities. Field trips will be publicized through email, chapter newsletter, and website.

The field trip leader must provide the following information regarding the specifics of a field trip. A worksheet has been created to help organize the field trip.

- 1) Where and what – what sites are going to be visited and their location. (e.g. rock art sites in the Dry Creek area)
- 2) Duration of trip – (e.g. half-day, all day, multi-day)
- 3) If the trip is multi-day, provide information about motel/camping options, including the availability of enough room for trailers, RV's etc.
- 4) Members need to sign a liability and ethics waiver before participating in field trips. The waivers can be downloaded from the chapter website, or obtained from the trip leader. Signed waivers are kept by the field trip coordinator or designee.
- 5) The trip leader will determine the group size taking into consideration the potential impacts group size has on fragile sites. A recommended group size is 10-15 people. Be aware that in some areas (e.g. Cedar Mesa, S.E. Utah) there is a limit on backcountry group size to 12 people. In some cases limited parking may require carpooling.
- 6) The trip leader will determine if dogs will be allowed. Please bear in mind that in some public land situations dogs aren't allowed in the backcountry (e.g. Grand Gulch, National Parks).
- 7) Determine a meeting place and time.
- 8) Participants must sign up in advance with the trip leader. Guests will be allowed on a limited basis depending on availability. Members may bring guests with prior arrangement with the trip leader. Guests must be accompanied by a member and approved ahead of time. Members of other CAS chapters may participate in Chipeta field trips, but members have priority over guests if group size is limited.
- 9) Verify first aid needs can be met.
- 10) The grading system listed below should assist members in determining whether a field trip is within their abilities. Most field trips require 4WD/high clearance capabilities which adds to the difficulty of the trip.
 - Level 1 – Vehicle access is near site, flat, even terrain.
 - Level 2 – Vehicle access is ¼ to 1 mile from site, flat to mildly rolling terrain.
 - Level 3 – Vehicle access is 1-3 miles from site on flat to rolling terrain
 - Level 4 – Vehicle access is 1-3 m from site on rocky, uneven terrain, possibly steep terrain.
 - Level 5 – Multi-day backpacking – rugged terrain.

Effective November 2012; Revised 2/18/2015, 4/15/2015 11/16/2016.