

# **Hundred Peaks Section Outings and Safety Policy**

**Revised June 12, 2003**

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## **I. Classification of Outings**

Outings shall be rated as "I", "O", or "M" in accordance with Angeles Chapter Safety Committee policy. Routes to peaks on the current HPS list are considered to be rated either "O" or "I" except for certain "M" peaks or routes listed in Section V below. Ascents by unusual routes involving class 3 or higher climbing or under snow and ice conditions which ordinarily involve moderate or higher technical difficulties shall be rated "M" or "E".

## **II. Outings and Safety Chair**

A. The Outings Chair and the Safety Chair shall be experienced mountaineers and outings leaders, and shall be familiar with the peaks on the HPS list and with the capabilities of HPS leaders. These Chairs will normally, but not necessarily, be the same person.

B. The Outings Chair shall maintain a current file of leaders and their certification level as approved by Angeles Chapter.

## **III. Outings Requirements and Distribution of Write-Ups for Approved Trips**

A. Proposed outings write-ups shall be submitted to the Outings Chair for approval and distribution for publication. For jointly sponsored outings, the write-up shall be submitted through the first mentioned sponsor, with a copy sent to the Outings Chair of the other named sponsors. The Outings Chair will be responsible for distributing approved Outings for listing.

B. Every outing shall be listed in the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities, The HPS newsletter (The Lookout) or the HPS internet website. C. The outing write-up shall define requirements placed on participants as to effort required (distance, elevation gain, etc.) and special skills and equipment, including the difficulty level classification.

## **IV. Leader Qualifications**

A. Leaders of HPS sponsored outings are expected to be HPS members, however exceptions may be authorized by the HPS Outings Chair. Leaders must be Sierra Club members in good standing.

B. For any outing, the leader and the assistant leader must be rated by the Chapter as being qualified to conduct outings of the designated rating.

C. It is the policy of the HPS that both leaders should have climbed the peak before conducting the outing, preferably within 3 months of the scheduled date. However, HPS will accept for

scheduling, at the discretion of the Outings Chair, outings where the leaders have not previously climbed the peak and are not planning to scout it, providing that one of the following criteria is met:

- (1) The outing is listed as "exploratory", or
- (2) A route in the HPS approved Peak Guide is followed.

D. Leaders must follow the current HPS Outings and Angeles Chapter Safety-Committee Policies.

### **V. Leader Qualifications for "M Rated Peaks and Routes**

A. The following routes in the approved HPS Peak Guides are considered to be third class ("M" rated) routes:

- 11 Five Fingers by all routes,
- 11B Strawberry Peak by Route 2 (via Colby Canyon),
- 28A Lily Rock by all routes.
- 28E Antsell Rock by all routes,

The HPS Peak Guides shall indicate the "M" rating of these routes.

B. "I" rated leaders who wish to lead the routes in Section V.A. must be approved by the Chapter Safety Committee. The Chapter Safety Committee is delegating to the HPS Management Committee to recommend to the Safety Committee leaders who they feel should be granted the privilege of leading these "M" rated routes. In order to be recommended, "I" rated leaders shall meet the following criteria (set by the HPS Management):

1. Previously led at least 20 sanctioned HPS "I" rated peaks,
2. Previously been a participant on a hike with an M (or higher) rated leader, or an "I" rated leader who has been approved by HPS, to the peak by the route they plan to lead. [the hike need not have been a scheduled Sierra Club outing].
3. Shall have experience at climbing on 3rd class rock, and demonstrated knowledge of the risks of the 3rd class climb and the skills to manage a group so that the risks are minimized.
4. Shall have applied to the HPS Safety Chair stating their qualifications for leading each of the routes in V.A.

C.. The outing shall be listed as "M".

D. The following peaks shall require "M" (or higher) rated leaders to climb the summit block highest point. "I" rated leaders may lead to the base of the summit block (register location), but neither they nor their participants shall climb the highest point.

2Q Weldon Peak

27G Cornell Peak

28K Pine Mtn #2

28N Rock Point

The HPS Peak Guides shall indicate the leader requirements for these routes.

E. "M" or higher rated leaders are required for any exploratory or undocumented (not described in the HPS Peak Guide) route that is likely to require class 3 or higher climbing, for example, Iron Mtn #1 from Mt San Antonio.

F. Winter hikes in snow conditions:

1. Normally "O" rated routes shall become at least "I" rated under conditions requiring snowshoes or skis.
2. Routes requiring ice axe and crampons shall become restricted "E" rated.

## **VI. Outing Procedures**

A. Leaders are expected to be familiar with Sierra Club National and Angeles Chapter policies, which take precedence over HPS policies.

B. Every outing shall have at least two leaders. Trips with large groups may need more than 2 leaders for adequate control. All leaders have to be rated appropriately to the outing.

C. A sign-in sheet with waiver approved by the Sierra Club shall be used on all outings to check participants in and out. The leaders shall ascertain that all participants legibly list their emergency phone numbers and automobile license plate numbers in the spaces provided for this information. All participants shall be checked in and out.

D. The leaders should have available Sierra Club and HPS Membership information for nonmembers.

E. The leaders are responsible for enforcing Sierra Club rules of conduct on the outing.

F. The leaders shall check that all participants are properly equipped and qualified for the outing requirements. For outings rated "O" or "I", this check may be made at the road head. For "M" or

higher rated outings, reservations shall be required with the check on participant qualifications as a part of the reservation procedure.

G. The leaders shall keep the group under control at all times and exercise prudent judgment at all times during the trip.

H. The leaders shall modify the outing plan as necessary to avoid exceeding the capability of the group.

I. The leaders shall abort the outing objective if circumstances prevent its completion in safety.

## **Addenda**

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**These Addenda are not part of the Bylaws.  
It contains material that may be useful for future reference.**

### **A.1. Bill T Russell New Leader Award**

Added December 14, 1995 The Bill T Russell New Leader Award is to be given in recognition of an outstanding new leader (a leader who has completed LTC in the last five years) who has demonstrated excellent leadership techniques by leading innovative new routes, exploring historic trails and peaks, or developing important new traditions. Therefore by virtue of the frequency and variety of the trips led or co-led shows great promise as a regular and frequent future leader for the HPS. This is not an annual award but is given only as a new leader qualifies by virtue his/her auspicious record. This award is named the Bill T Russell New Leader Award in honor of Bill T Russell, who has mentored countless new leaders, has led some of the most exciting and innovative routes, and has been instrumental in developing multiple routes such as the annual Iron Mountain climb, the Galena to Birch extravaganza, and his exploration of the ridges, truly giving meaning to the term "Pathfinder."

### **A.2. Achievement List (Emblems)**

Achievement recognition is awarded by the Management Committee to anyone who has been an active HPS member for the preceding six months and has completed the climbing and leading requirements listed below. Applicants must submit a list of peaks showing dates climbed to the Membership Chair. Various patches, pins, and other items approved by the Management Committee are available for sale to those who earn achievements. Certificates of achievement may be issued as appropriate.

1. The 100 Peaks Emblem is awarded for climbing 100 peaks on the List.
2. The 200 Peaks Emblem is awarded for climbing 200 peaks on the List.
3. List Completion is recognized for climbing all peaks on the List.
4. Multiple List Completion is recognized for climbing all peaks on the List multiple times.
5. The Pathfinder emblem recognition is awarded for climbing 100, 200, or all the peaks on the list by two different routes.
6. The Explorer emblem recognition is awarded for climbing 100, 200, or all the peaks on the list by three different routes.
7. Snowshoe emblem recognition is awarded for climbing 25, 100, 200, or all the peaks on the list by use of snowshoes or other flotation device in snow.
8. 100 Peak Leads is recognized for leaders who have led 100 peaks on the List.
9. 200 Peak Leads is recognized for leaders who have led 200 peaks on the List.

10. Leading the List is recognized for leaders who have led all peaks on the List.
11. Leading the List Multiple Times is recognized for leaders who have led the List multiple times.

For the leader achievements, being the Leader or Assistant Leader on a scheduled hike for at least half of the ascent is sufficient for the lead to be counted. For the non-completion achievements, peaks that were on the List at the time when climbed or led may be counted. For the completion achievements, all peaks on the List at the time of application are required, except for the multiple completion achievements; in these cases the requirement applies only to the most recent completion.

**A RESOLUTION  
Concerning Safety and Other Complaints**

(A) WHEREAS, the proper handling of safety and other complaints is of the utmost importance to the safety and enjoyment of participants and leaders of Hundred Peaks Section (HPS) outings and events, and

(B) WHEREAS, there is no legitimate basis for anonymous complaints, and a malicious and unjustified anonymous complaint can disrupt the responsible handling of legitimate safety and other complaints and unjustly inflict great personal distress upon the subject of the complaint, and

(C) WHEREAS, the leaders and participants involved in outings are always a critical source of information in understanding how and why incidents occur on those outings, and

(D) WHEREAS, National Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Sierra Club, SR 2: Civil Disobedience states: 1. The Sierra Club will not encourage, request or direct any person to violate the law. No chapter, group, or other entity of the Club shall encourage, request or direct any person to violate the law. 2. "The Club recognizes that it cannot control the private actions of its members, and in particular cannot prevent its members from engaging in acts of civil disobedience", and

(E) WHEREAS, the policy of the Sierra Club, SR 15-1-1, clearly states that there is no place in Sierra Club events or outings for libelous or defamatory statements, unfounded claims of libel or defamation, or harassment (sexual or otherwise) of leaders or participants. Such action by any Sierra Club leader or participant will not be tolerated. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, including loss of leadership status and loss of the privilege of participating in Club events or outings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(1) HPS will not encourage, request or direct any person to violate the law. HPS hikers and leaders are required to follow the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Sierra Club and laws of the prevailing land management on scheduled outings and official HPS events or documents. HPS strongly encourages adherence to the rules of these governing organizations at all times.

(2) HPS will not tolerate libelous or defamatory statements, unfounded claims of libel or defamation, or harassment (sexual or otherwise) of leaders or participants on scheduled outings, or other official HPS events or document (such as, but not limited to, the annual banquet, The Lookout, HPS websites & listservs, provisional leader evaluations, ballots, etc.).

(3) HPS will not consider or act upon any complaint unless the alleged incident occurred on a scheduled outing or other official HPS event or document. HPS will consider all incidents not associated with scheduled outings or official HPS events or document as strictly the responsibility of the individuals concerned. Those individuals are solely responsible for their actions and/or repercussions of such actions.

(4) HPS will not consider or act upon any anonymous complaint unless the information in the complaint is corroborated by a named source.

(5) HPS will always contact the leaders and/or participants named in any complaint at the outset of an investigation, and will fully consider (but not be unduly swayed by) what information the leaders and/or participants can provide.

(6) HPS will call upon the Angeles Chapter Safety committee and other Chapter entities to implement procedures at the Chapter level consonant with Sections (1) through (5) above.

## **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING A HPS LIFE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

1. WHEREAS the Hundred Peaks Section has use for financial contributions in the course of its normal operations, and
2. WHEREAS members of the Hundred Peaks Section may on occasion desire to make substantial donations to the Section, and
3. WHEREAS the recognition of Life Members is a tradition within the Sierra Club originating more than 50 years ago.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. **LIFE MEMBERS:** The Section shall recognize Members making donations of \$550 or more as Life Members.
2. **EXCUSED FROM FURTHER PAYMENTS:** Life Members shall be granted all the privileges and bear all the responsibilities of HPS membership throughout their natural lives without requirement of further payment.
3. **RETROACTIVE:** Members having made contributions at the Life Member level in the past shall be recognized currently and in the future as Life Members.
4. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE:** The HPS Management Committee, under unusual circumstances and by a unanimous vote, may choose to confer Life Membership status as an honor upon and without cost to individuals who have performed great service to HPS.

## HPS "Peak Suspension" Policy Statements

Approved by MComm September 2016

Suspension (as opposed to de-listing) of peaks on the HPS List should be considered if peak access is affected by the following:

1. All routes are not "legal" due to:

Private property closures (that can possibly be resolved\*) or,

Forest Closure Areas (after a fire, fire danger, trail damage, endangered species, etc.), as defined by a Forest Closure Order; State Park, National Park or Monument Official Order, or similar governmental posting or order.

2. Safety Issues -- such as a major rock slide obliterating the only route; or trail washouts from storm runoff, creating conditions unacceptable to the HPS Safety Committee, that are expected to eventually be corrected by trail maintenance efforts.

Not qualifying for Peak "Suspension" would be the "suspension" or inaccessibility of one route (as defined above), as long as another route allows access. Alternate routes need not be current HPS published routes, if others can be defined and added to the website. This would apply even if the alternate route requires potential backpacking due to extended distance.

Legal closures that are expected to last for at least two months should be considered for suspension. This should not include "seasonal closures" (winter road closures, fire danger / summer closures).

Any HPS Member can recommend suspension to the Management Committee, but a primary responsibility of the HPS Access Chair is to monitor the factors that may warrant suspension and make recommendations to the Management Committee. The HPS Management Committee makes the ultimate decision to suspend a peak, and then, at the appropriate time, un-suspend a peak.

For reference purposes, following is Section 7, Peaks List, Paragraph 5, of the HPS bylaws:

**Temporary Suspension of Peak** By majority vote the Management Committee may suspend a peak from the Peak List for six months, and may remove such suspension at any appropriate time. Suspension will cause a peak to be ignored in applications for list completion achievements. Suspended peaks may be counted toward the 100 or 200 peak achievements, at the option of the applicant.

\* Two statutes are in place that provide for possible continued access through private property if certain conditions are met. Since most of the HPS listed peaks have been hiked on a continuous basis for five years prior to 1972, the following applies to any in that category:

California Civil Code section 1009 allows the public to establish an implied in law dedication of an access easement. We only need to show that there were five or more years of continuous use prior to 1972.

Further, California Civil Code section 846 limits the liability of the property owner for such access.

### **Removal of a peak suspension**

Added by a vote of the Management Committee July 2024:

When a peak is suspended due to safety issues, regular official outings to the peak will not be conducted. The suspension will be removed from suspended status only after a scouting trip by two or more rated HPS leaders. This scouting trip MAY be scheduled as a special scouting trip in Campfire, but if so, participation will be limited mainly to leaders. The purpose of the scouting trip will be to recommend to the Management Committee whether groups can safely climb the peak. In all cases, suspension or removal of suspension is entirely at the discretion of the management committee.