

ICO Hikes: Many Possible Tasks and Roles for Volunteers

Volunteers' ideas and interests are needed and welcomed to enhance students' ICO hike experiences. Here is a list of some examples for how you might assist with hikes. The multiple combinations of schools/students and leaders/destinations will offer varied options for what can be done. Needed roles can differ by hike and you might offer to do one or more tasks.

Please aim to join at least two hikes within 12 months and assist in ways that match your talents. As you learn more about ICO and gain satisfaction from being involved, you will help improve services to youth. Check your calendar, contact a leader and arrange to come along soon! You can contribute so much toward the inspiring of connections to the outdoors.

Pre-hike: Check with a leader if you are able to help ahead of time. Some tasks are:

1. Research past and current info on hike area
2. Plan aspects of the hike or related activities
3. Write a synopsis that the teacher can use with students & parents
4. Schedule a school visit to talk to kids about the hike

Start of Hike: Check with a leader about ONE way to help. Some tasks are:

1. Check with all students about their water/food/packs
2. Share nature or history knowledge you have about the area
3. Discuss with other adults about ways they can participate
4. Explain a hike outcome that kids can aim to achieve

During Hike: Check with a leader about ONE way to help. Some tasks are:

1. Ask kids' names (older: discuss interests & future goals, younger: play games & share snacks)
2. Guide students to abide by the "leave no trace" approach
3. Assist kids with any photo checklists or scavenger hunts
4. Report to teacher observed ongoing unsafe/inappropriate actions

End of Hike: Check with a leader about ONE way to help. Some tasks are:

1. Reinforce multiple kids' observations and accomplishments on hike
2. Distribute and collect students' evaluations of hike experience
3. Promote ICO social media accounts and create a hike hashtag
4. Offer feedback and more suggestions for future ICO outings

Post-hike: Check with a leader if you are able to help afterwards. Some tasks are:

1. Provide photos, write an article or edit video footage
2. Conduct short interviews with individuals or small groups
3. Share yours and students' reflections for PR & fundraising
4. Arrange to visit the school for follow-up or collect students' writings

