

The Wilderness Trek Crew Leader

What is a Crew Leader? A Crew Leader is a teen camper who leads a group of eight to ten persons. This group is referred to as a crew. Some groups use two Crew Leaders per crew.

What is the purpose of a Crew Leader? A Crew Leader serves the people in the crew. By servant leadership they model and facilitate the working of a crew.

What are the tasks of the Crew Leader? A Crew Leader assigns the meals and crew gear that each crewmember will carry. A Crew Leader models a Christ-like spirit. Through word and deed the Crew Leader is the heart of each Trek. Crew Leaders are key encouragers for the people on their Trek. They serve the people in their crew. They lead in low impact camping. They take a spiritual role in the leadership of their Trek.

How are Crew Leaders chosen? Crew Leaders are people who have the interpersonal skills to direct teens and adults. Crew Leaders should also have a spiritual maturity that will add to their Trek. Crew Leaders are not first-time trekkers unless everyone on a Trek is a first-time trekker.

How are Crew Leaders trained? It is important that Crew Leaders have an idea of the expectations that are placed on them. Therefore, Crew Leaders as a group should spend some time together before they go on their Trek. Three sessions would be a minimum goal for these meetings. An adult (preferably a veteran of Wilderness Trek) should serve to guide them. Things covered should include tasks, interpersonal skills, camping skills, Trek rules and guidelines, and the spiritual theme.

How many Crew Leaders are needed for a Trek? A Crew Leader serves up to ten people in a crew. A full Trek will divide into two crews of 8-10 persons. If your group is larger (more than 20 trekkers total), you will need to divide into groups of no more than 20 and select 2 crew leaders for each group. Ideal group sizes are 12 – 20 trekkers.

Crew Leader Training Meetings

Three Crew Leader training meetings are suggested to prepare crew leaders. It is the responsibility of the group coordinator to arrange these meetings.

Meeting 1

Discuss the tasks that a Crew Leader has to carry out. Refer to crew gear and meal lists. Veteran Crew Leaders may share with first time Crew Leaders. Develop strategies for this work based on things that have and have not worked in the past.

Meeting 2

During this meeting review the *Wilderness Trek™ Participant Handbook for Teen Treks (or for Teen P & P Treks)*. Look at key elements, what to bring, and what not to bring. Talk about camping skills needed which ones you are comfortable with, which skills you are not sure of. The purpose is to identify your level of skill. Remember the staff will help in this area. Areas of discussion should include packs, tents, stoves, dining flies, low-impact hiking/camping (LNT – Leave No Trace), cooking and cleaning.

Meeting 3

Look at the role of the Crew Leader as a spiritual leader. Discuss how the spiritual theme may impact the things that happen each day of trek. The theme for 2008 is “*Experience the Kingdom.*” Copies of the *2008 Wilderness Trek Journal* will be sent to all group coordinators by April 1, 2008.

Wilderness Trek Spiritual Theme for 2008: “*Experience the Kingdom*”

Key Scripture: **Mark 1:14-15**

Key concepts: For a more detailed outline of the theme go to www.wildernesstrek.org/faq-and-helpful-forms.php

Crew Leader Checklist

- The Crew Leader** has been informed about and understands the duties and tasks required of the Crew Leader.
- The Crew Leader** is aware of the spiritual theme for this year, *“Experience the Kingdom.”* The Crew Leader has committed to modeling the Christian attributes that are expressed by this year’s theme. For a better overview of the theme and how it will be developed by the Trek staff throughout the week see the *Wilderness Trek™ Journal*.
- The Crew Leader** has reviewed Wilderness Trek key elements, what to bring, and what not to bring, all found in the *Wilderness Trek™ Participant Handbook for Teen Treks*.
- The Crew Leader** has discussed with other Crew Leaders what camping skills they have and which ones may need some improvement.
- The Crew Leader** can articulate what low-impact camping means (see Wilderness Trek Christian Camp – Leave No Trace Principles).
- The Crew Leader** has committed to prayer for the work of God during their Trek.

Crew Gear List

Stove 1
Stove 2
Fuel 1
Fuel 2
Fuel 3
Pots and Pans
Utensils
Dining Fly
Condiments Bag
Crew Shovel
Collapsible Water Bucket

Meal List

Day 2 Dinner
Day 3 Breakfast
Day 3 Lunch
Day 3 Dinner
Day 4 Breakfast
Day 4 Lunch
Day 4 Dinner
Day 5 Breakfast
Day 5 Lunch
Day 5 Dinner
Day 6 Breakfast