Form a circle when all hikers have their gear. Drivers, display permits!

Intro Leader and Shepherd (see script in Trailhead Talking Points doc)

Have participants go around the circle and say their name, and maybe a fun fact.

Announce the plan for today’s hike and what the trail will feature: waterfalls, flowers, mountain views, animals, geology, etc. “We will talk about the Friends and some current issues in the Gorge at lunch.”

Ask: Has anyone hiked this trail before? Is this your first Friends’ hike? Are you a member of Friends? (Helps you to assess the group)

Visual check of hikers: footwear, rain gear. Cotton and jean material are VERY HIGHLY discouraged.

Speak to poorly equipped hikers privately after the briefing, just before the hike. Don’t hesitate about telling them they can’t go on the hike, if necessary. Your goal is a safe hike for everyone in your group.

Do you have? ( ) liters of water? Lunch, snacks?

Today’s hike will be: ( ) miles with ( ) feet elevation gain.

Trail conditions: steep, slippery, muddy, stream crossings, steep drop-offs, etc. Weather - esp. if expecting changes or high heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, etc. Safety/hazards: ticks, poison oak, rattlesnakes, etc.

We expect to return to the trailhead/off-trail by about ( ) pm. (but no guarantees!)

Is there anyone who does not plan to do the whole hike? If you leave early, you must officially sign out with the Leader or Shepherd.

Medical: Who has first aid kits and training?

Special Medical Situations: You cannot ask for specific medical conditions but ask “if you have a specific medical condition, have you come prepared with remedy/treatment? (ex: asthma inhaler, allergy medicine or Epi Pen, medication, etc)

Order of March: This is a group activity and participants will stay behind the Leader & in front of the Shepherd.

We will make stops on trail to adjust clothing (after an initial 30 mins), at every trail junction, for breaks, for lunch. If you need a bio-beak: drop back, tell the Shepherd, catch up after. Leave your pack by the trail.

Introduce any botanists, birders, geologists, etc.

Turn off your cell phones! If you must use it, do so at a break.

Be safe! Be considerate of others!

Count off! Know how many people total are in your group.