

Big Sky Hikers – 2015 Season – FINAL

Welcome all residents and visitors to Big Sky and Gallatin Canyon

Meeting Place and Time: Big Sky Hikers meet each Thursday morning at the Community Park located just off Little Coyote Road. Hike groups will depart at the following times, unless otherwise noted:

- Double Black Diamond (◆◆) hikes will depart at 8:00.
- Black Diamond (◆) and Blue Square (■) hikes will depart at 8:30
- Green Circle (●) hikes will depart at 9:00

Please gather at the Community Park at least 15 minutes earlier, sign up for the hike, meet your group and help prepare for a prompt departure. Transportation to the trailhead will be organized by car-pooling in each group. Roads to some trailheads will require four wheel drive vehicles with adequate ground clearance.

Multiple Hike Groups: To better accommodate larger numbers of hikers and differing abilities, multiple hikes have been scheduled for every Thursday. Each hike group will go to a different trailhead. At the meeting place, hikers will sign a roster/waiver sheet for each hike. Of course, all hikes are subject to change due to weather or trail conditions.

Hike Rating System: None of our hikes require technical climbing techniques or gear. HOWEVER, ALL REQUIRE THAT YOU ARE ACCLIMATED TO OUR ALTITUDE. IF YOU JUST ARRIVED FROM THE FLATLANDS, PLEASE TAKE TIME TO ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL AREA AND JOIN US FOR NEXT WEEK'S HIKE. Double Black Diamond (◆◆) hikes are strenuous, involving long distances and significant altitude gain; these hikes are best suited to fit, altitude-acclimated and well-prepared hikers. Black Diamond (◆) hikes are a bit less strenuous, but still significant efforts. Blue Square (■) hikes are modestly more challenging than the Green Circle (●) hikes. Green Circle (●) hikes are easiest, and suitable for hikers of all capabilities. The information provided for each hike in the table below is representative, but approximate. If you have any questions regarding the details of a particular hike, call one of the assigned leaders who will have recent, personal experience in hiking that trail.

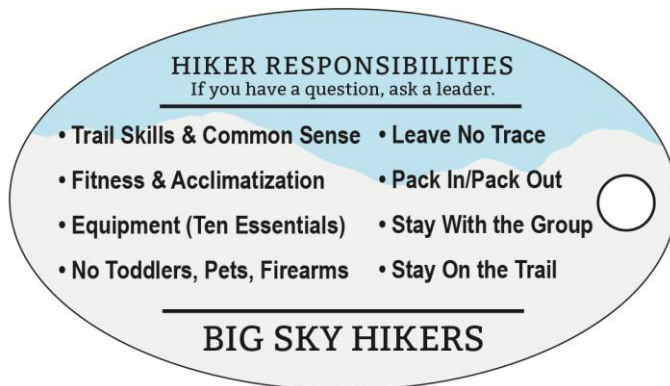
Donation: A donation of \$2/person is asked from each hiker when signing up for hikes. This pays for administration costs (paper, postage, park fees), hike supplies (coolers, first aid kits), after hike refreshments, and donations to relevant causes or organizations.

Hiking Etiquette: Remember the policy of “Pack it in, pack it out,” and “Leave no trace” when hiking in the wilderness or YNP. No pets or children under 12, please. ***Our policy is to keep our groups together on the trail, taking occasional breaks to allow the entire group to regroup.*** Your cooperation is essential, so please ***DO NOT LEAVE THE GROUP AT ANY TIME.*** This policy not only ensures that no one becomes separated or lost, but also is the single best way to avoid surprising a bear. ***Big Sky country is grizzly bear country,*** and this reality is a serious consideration on all of our hikes. ***Please stay together!***

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Equipment: Experienced hikers carry a well-sorted daypack, with plenty of water, lunch and snacks, rain gear and other clothing layers to cope with the abrupt changes in weather that are typical in the mountains. Sturdy (and broken in!) shoes are suggested, as many of the trails are rocky, may cross patches of snow and streams, and at times the footing can be unstable. Hike leaders will have a basic first aid kit. Hikers should bring their own bear spray, insect repellent, toilet paper, sunscreen, a map and big SMILES!! If you have questions regarding gear, ask a hike leader. Note the Ten Essentials on the tag below.

Hiker Responsibilities: Hike leaders are not paid guides. All hikers are responsible for their own safety – they must have the equipment, skill level and physical fitness to complete the hike, even with the unexpected challenges the mountains can throw at us. Plans may need to be adjusted for weather, sickness, injury or other unexpected events. Most of our hikes are out of cell phone coverage, so any rescue will take considerable time, and may possibly mean spending the night. Note the tag below.



All hikers should protect the forest resources by carrying out all trash, including toilet paper. Use existing trails when possible to prevent erosion. Pets and firearms are prohibited on all hikes.

Hike Coordinators:

Double Black Diamond (◆◆) Hikes: Leslie & Rich Piercy (993-2303)

Black Diamond (◆) and Blue Square (■) Hikes: Chuck Tufts (995-3892) & John Loomis (995-3808)

Green Circle (●) Hikes: Barbara Blesch (995-2422) & Woody Burt (995-2761)

NOTE: Two leaders (leader, sweeper) are required on each hike. If an assigned leader is unable to lead a hike, that person is responsible to find an appropriate substitute. Assigned leaders are also responsible to scout their hikes in advance. Based on their scouting, hike destinations may be changed at the leaders' discretion. Wildfires, road maintenance delays, weather and trail conditions are all possibilities that may make this happen!

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Date	Rating-Hike	Trailhead	Length*	Climb*	Leaders	Comment
June 6	National Trails Day	Big Sky Community Park	N/A	N/A	Steve Johnson 995-4566	Meet at the Community Park at 9:00 am
June 11	◆◆ Lava Lake	Lava Lake	5.8 miles	1600 ft.	Leslie Piercy 993-2303	
	■ Lemon Drop Loop	Porcupine Creek	5.5 miles	1100 ft.	John Loomis 995-3808	
	● Reflector	Big Sky Community Park – East End	4 miles	650 ft.	Barbara Blesch 995-2422	
June 18	◆◆ Lightning Lake	Beaver Creek, Potamogeton Park	8 miles	1500 ft.	Rich Piercy 993-2303	Trailhead past Hebgen Lake
	■ Little Tepee to Red Canyon	Little Tepee Creek	9 miles	1200 ft.	Rumsey Young 995-2629	Trailhead near Hebgen Lake, shuttle required
	● Middle Fork Loop	Autumn Trail West cul de sac	4.2 miles	370 ft.	TBD	
June 25	◆◆ Dailey Creek/Dailey Pass	Dailey Creek	10 miles	1700 ft.	Leslie Piercy 993-2303	Also misspelled “Daly” on some maps, YNP
	■ Beehive Basin	Beehive Basin	6.6 miles	1350 ft.	Sue and Mike Arneson 995-3133	
	● Ulery’s Lake Loop	Moonlight	4 miles	800 ft.	Carol McGuire 995-7422	
July 2	◆◆ Garnet Mountain	Storm Castle	8 miles	2670 ft.	Rebecca Shopay 995-2767	
	◆ Blue Danube Lake	Beaver Creek	10.2 miles	2200 ft.	Lance Krieg 995-3112	Trailhead past Hebgen Lake, 3.5 miles down road
	■ Lizard Lakes	Taylor Fork, Cache Creek	11 miles	1600 ft.	George Tallichet 995-2909	
	● Fan Creek	Fawn Pass	5 miles	450 ft.	Karen Savage 579-4947	YNP
July 9	◆◆ Eldridge Creek	Taylor Fork, Eldridge Creek	12 miles	2560 ft.	Rich Piercy 993-2303	Trailhead details TBA
	◆ Big EZ to Buck Ridge	Big EZ Rec Area	12 miles	1400 ft.	Tom Lowery 995-9509 Chuck Buker 770-843-2086	
	■ Marble Mountain	Cinnamon Creek	6 miles	1300 ft.	Jeff Strickler 995-4768	
	● Porcupine Creek	Porcupine Creek	4.5 miles	800 ft.	Margaret Leeper 995-4146	
July 16	◆◆ Ramshorn Lake	Buffalo Horn	13 miles	1750 ft.	Gail and Steve Young 993-2244	Trailhead in back of 320 Ranch
	◆ Tick Ridge	526 Chief Joseph Trail	7.4 miles	2400ft.	Rumsey Young 995-2629	Shuttle required

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	Rating-Hike	Trailhead	Length*	Climb*	Leaders	Comment
July 16 (continued)	■ Windy Pass	Portal Creek, Windy Pass	4.8 miles	1260 ft.	Ann Fetzer 513-446-2886	Rough road to trailhead
	● Albino Lake	Taylor Fork, Albino Lake	5.5 miles	300 ft.	Jeff Strickler 995-4768 Mary Carlson 995-2216	
July 23	◆◆ Koch Basin	Taylor Fork, Lightning Lake	11 miles	2570 ft.	Kim Ibes 206-388-7130	
	◆ Indian Ridge	Spanish Creek	10 miles	2050 ft.	Jeff Strickler 995-4768	
	■ History Rock	Hyalite Reservoir, History Rock	8 miles	1500 ft.	Karen and John Savage 579-4952	Bozeman trailhead
	● Dailey Creek – Tepee Creek Loop	Dailey Creek	5 miles	900 ft.	Priscilla Young 995-2629 Barbara Gillespie	Also misspelled “Daly” on some maps, YNP shuttle req’d
July 30	◆◆ Alp Lake	Taylor Fork, Lightning Lake	14 miles	2500 ft.	Heather Walker 995-2765	
	◆ Mt Blackmore	Hyalite Reservoir, Mt Blackmore	10.2 miles	2950 ft.	Kim Ranstrom 995-2843 Jan Bernards 995-4324	Bozeman trailhead
	■ Blizzard Ridge View	Buffalo Horn	8 miles	1560 ft.	TBD	Trailhead in back of 320 Ranch
	● Pioneer Falls	Spanish Creek	7.5 miles	860 ft.	Karen Strickler 995-4768	
August 6	◆◆ Bear Basin	North Fork	13 miles	2500 ft.	Betsy McFadden 995-2068	
	■ Tumbledown Creek	Taylor Fork, Lightning Lake	9 miles	1500 ft.	Jim Schafer 995-3238	
	● Fairy Falls	YNP, Midway Geyser Basin	6.4 miles	200 ft.	Woody Burt 995-2761	YNP
August 13	◆◆ Sheep Lake	Sheep Creek	13 miles	2500 ft.	Nancy Hagen 995-3153	Trailhead past Hebgen Lake, turn at Raynold’s Pass
	■ North Fork Loop	North Fork	8 miles	1000 ft.	Cicely Drennan 573-465-2306	
	● Riverside	Storm Castle	6 miles	250 ft.	Sarah Peterson 831-247-0765	
August 20	◆◆ Mystery Hike	TBA	TBA miles	TBA ft.	Leslie & Rich Piercy 993-2303	Trust us
	■ Mystery Hike	TBA	TBA miles	TBA ft.	Chuck Tufts 995-3892	Trust us
	● Mystery Hike	TBA	TBA miles	TBA ft.	Barbara Blesch 995-2422 Woody Burt 995-2761	Trust us

*Lengths are total distances, either round trip or point to point. Climb is difference in elevation between trailhead and highest point on the route. All of these data are approximate, to the best of our ability to read maps!