

SCOUTS-L

HIKING

Date: Thu, 3 Aug 1995 01:25:17 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Solo hiking

Sue,

You presented the list with a situation where you as a youth were on a hike and decided to leave the group without their knowledge to pursue your own agenda. Of course you got feedback indicating that this was not a good idea and discussion moved on to safe ways for groups to hike. And of course there were some pointed comments about the costs to society when people have to be rescued, especially when rescuers are put at risk. And there were some balanced comments about the values of hiking in solitude with a recognition of the difference between doing so as an adult and responsibility with a group. Likewise you have gotten some feedback about balancing your own rights with responsibility.

Did you expect less of this diverse group when you keyed in your original posting? Of late it seems that things have started to get a little personal on this thread. Come on - let's all chill out a little and not jump to conclusions about other folks - we all need solitude and find it in different ways. But most of all remember what this list is about. We are here hopefully in friendship to explore ways of better serving youth. To that end maybe it would be more productive to keep the discussion on this thread in the context of how we can help youth or in sharing information about the programs we are involved in to allow us to be better leaders. And before somebody leaps to a conclusion, no I'm not advocating rules on content for the list. No - I'm just advocating that we keep perspective and exercise a little kindness towards each other.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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