



Become a Champion of a Young Hikers Club!

Do you have a passion for the outdoors and a desire to help youth explore the beauty of Nova Scotia's trails? Hike Nova Scotia's Young Hikers Club is a fantastic opportunity for organizations and community leaders to inspire and engage youth (ages 5-17) in nature adventures through hiking! By championing and coordinating a Young Hikers Club, you'll guide young people to develop confidence, friendships and a lifelong love for the outdoors. Here's what's involved in leading a club:

1. Structure and Goal of the Program

The Young Hikers Club connects youth with their peers while fostering a love for hiking and the natural world. Participants meet regularly to plan hikes, explore trails and engage in activities like the Youth Hiker Challenge, where they can earn badges for their achievements. Your club can cater to specific age groups, allowing youth to explore at their own pace and ability.

2. Establishing and Championing a Club

Starting a club is easy! As a coordinator, you'll establish an age range for participants, find a meeting space and recruit youth members. Clubs can be organized through schools, Recreation centers or community groups, Friendship and Cultural Centers or other youth organizations. Whether you work with a small or large group, the goal is to build a welcoming, supportive space where young hikers can connect with each other and nature.

3. Responsibilities and Expectations for Hiking Leaders

As a coordinator, you'll be responsible for planning and leading hikes, ensuring safety and maintaining group enthusiasm. Key duties include:

- Researching trails and assessing suitable hike locations
- Scheduling club meetings and hikes
- Communicating with parents and volunteers
- Ensuring the safety and inclusion of all participants
- Follow Leave No Trace principles

4. Maintaining and Sustaining the Club

Consistency is key! Regular hikes and check-ins will help keep youth engaged. With the help of your youth, you'll build a calendar of hikes, adapt routes to the group's growing skills and keep the adventure fresh with new challenges. Engaging youth in the planning process ensures sustained participation and excitement.



5. Coordinator and Leader Prerequisites

You don't need to be an expert, but basic hiking experience is important. While not mandatory, Hike Nova Scotia recommends Hiking Club Leaders have up to date first aid training. Hike Nova Scotia also offers additional discounted training like the two-day Field Leader Hiking Course, as well as webinars, resources and one-on-one support to help coordinators feel as confident as possible on the trails.

6. How Hike Nova Scotia Supports You

Hike Nova Scotia is here to assist with trail and safety planning templates, training opportunities, free snowshoe rentals, free challenge badges for youth incentives, activities and one-on-one check-in's and ongoing support. Whether you need help getting started or advice along the way, we've got the tools and support to ensure your Young Hikers Club is a success!

Interested in learning more? Contact admin@hikenovascotia.ca to explore the next steps and request the full orientation package!