

Alonzo Stagg 50/20 Hike – Biker Escort Operations (2014 Update)

It is recommended that all Biker Escorts read the “Hike Guide” AND the “Trail Rules and Emergency Procedures Sheet” before reading this Instructional Guide, then read this Guide.

The Hike employs **Biker Escorts** as “rapid response teams” for several stretches (but not all) of the routes. The Escorts are a pair of adults with bikes capable of carrying first aid supplies, snacks, and drinks to hikers anywhere along their designated trail sections. They also serve as trail monitors who can quickly check the hikers between the Tail-End Charlies (TECs) and the various Support Stops, **and encourage all hikers**. Working with the TECs and Support Stop Captains, the Escorts are responsible for ensuring that every hiker on their designated hike either completes their section or is picked up in accordance with the Emergency Procedures.

Biker Escorts are considered to be staffers, and are not charged. Escorts are needed for:

The C&O Canal Towpath, from Key Bridge/DC side to the Great Falls Support Stop (2-4 Needed) – Time Frame: Roughly 7:00 am (daylight) to about 4:00 pm (Note – Can Have Two Teams, and divide the time frame into two sessions 7:00 to noon, and 11:00 to 4:00!)

The Mt. Vernon, Four Mile Run, and W&OD Trails, from Key Bridge/Rosslyn side to Bluemont) (4 Needed) – Time Frame: Roughly 2:00 to 8:00 pm

Optional – Bluemont Loops (2 Needed) – Time Frame: Roughly 6:00 pm to 12:00 am

Additional Notes:

A) The Escorts must carry **Directions, charged cell phones, the POC List, the Trail Rules and Emergency Procedures Guide, and a digital camera**. All Escorts are requested to take photos of the various Support Stops, for use in future Hike Guides.

B) There are no Biker Escorts between St. Agnes and the C&O Canal Towpath, or from Key Bridge to St Agnes on the Custis Trail. However, the Biker Escorts can be called by the TECs if needed on either of those stretches.

C) In addition to the C&O Canal Towpath, the first pair of Biker Escorts should check the Capital Crescent Trail between Fletchers and Key Bridge on several occasions to ensure that no Hikers are mistakenly using that route (ASH participants should all be wearing ribbons).

D) The second pair of Biker Escorts are requested to be especially mindful to escort young hiker groups from Gravelly Point to the start of Bluemont Park (i.e., just past Columbia Pike), which is the only trail section that passes through an area that could be considered less safe. We have never had any problems on this section, and would like that record to continue.

E) Finally, the second pair of Biker Escorts and the Bluemont Loop Escorts should have their bikes equipped for nighttime use with lights, wear appropriate clothing, and wear something reflective, in accordance with W&OD Trail use regulations.

F) Photos of the various Support Stops should be provided to the Hike Administrator on a CD or thumb-drive, at the Escort’s earliest convenience.

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