

## **Alonzo Stagg 50/20 Hike – Bluemont Hiker Escorts Operations (2014 Update)**

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

The Last 10.4 miles of the Hike are completed in four circuits around a 2.66 mile loop of trails, each ending at the Bluemont pavilion. A number of hikers terminate their hikes upon arrival at Bluemont, leaving their buddies without a partner to finish the remaining mileage to reach 50 miles. Others drop out after one or two loops. Most/all remaining hikers are close to mental and physical exhaustion. The Hike provides **Hiker Escorts** at Bluemont as temporary buddies for the hikers who are continuing. Although we have a Unit that traditionally provides Bluemont Escorts, additional volunteers are welcome – including other Scouters, parents, spouses, other Scouts, or staffers from earlier Support Stops. Anyone willing to be a Bluemont Hike Escort should contact the Unit running the Bluemont Support Stop for additional information. The Escorts are needed from 7 pm through 1:30 am; the need is more critical between 8:00 pm and about midnight, by which point most hikers have finished. Escorts should carry a fully charged cell phone and a POC list. Keeping in mind that four loops equals more than a 10 mile hike, Escorts should be dressed appropriately for the existing weather conditions and be wearing good footwear. In addition, all Escorts need to adhere to the W&OD after-dark regulations to wear something reflective and carry a light. Finally, BSA Youth Protection regulations require that the Hiker Escorts work in pairs.

Escorts may complete 1, 2, 3, or 4 loops; most usually do about two. Escorts who are waiting for assignment at the Bluemont Pavillion are asked to assist the Support Stop staff with running the station, and especially in helping to clean everything up and packing it away at the end of the night. Welcoming each returning pair of hikers with encouragement and applause is very welcome, especially when a hiker pair is completing their final loop.

Hiker Escorts are considered to be staffers, and are not charged.

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