

SLM Hiking Club

Policy & Procedures

Hiking Club facilitator: Elizabeth Hoff, Retreat Coordinator at Shetek Lutheran Ministries

Welcome to the SLM (Shetek Lutheran Ministries) Hiking Club! Looking for a new adventure? Hike with us once a month throughout the year to meet new friends and explore our region. Hikes range from easy to strenuous, and include state parks and trails, county parks, and more. Southwest Minnesota has so much beautiful scenery, wildlife, and a variety of outdoor experiences to offer. Let's move and learn together!

How It Works

To Register:

- Members must be 18 years of age or older (unless part of a family group)
- Cost to join: Individuals: \$25/year; Couples \$40/year; Families \$60/year (3 or more w/same mailing address)
- Visit our website, www.shetek.org. Click on "Environmental Education," and then "Hiking Club".
- Download the "Membership Registration" form.
- Complete the registration form - fill out Demographic Information and Liability Waiver.
- Return to Shetek Lutheran Ministries via postal service or email (See contact information below) along with payment in the form of cash or check. Credit card payments may be made over the phone. Checks should be made payable to "Shetek Lutheran Ministries" with "Hiking Club" in the memo.
- Yearly fees run from the month first paid through the end of the month prior of the next year. For instance, if a yearly fee was paid in June, the next payment would be due May 31st of the following year.

Logging Hikes:

- Sign in sheets will be available at each hike - signing in each hike will ensure that your mileage is tracked.
- A variety of awards will be given at certain milestones - stay tuned for award guidelines!
- Awards will include badges and certificates for each milestone reached.
- Hiking journals will be given to each individual as a way to track thoughts/feelings about each hike.
- Guests are welcome to attend hikes - they must sign in with everyone else and must be accompanied by a current member. After two hikes, guests must register as a member.

Safety & Other Considerations:

- All hikes taken are at the mercy of Southwest Minnesota weather conditions. Dress in layers to ensure comfort while in the outdoors, and wear appropriate footwear for trail conditions.
- Hike only as you are comfortable - Some trails will be much more challenging than others. All trail characteristics will be communicated via the schedule.
- SLM Hiking Club members will meet at the designated sites 15 minutes ahead of time to connect and prepare for the hike ahead.
- If a hike must be cancelled it will be announced via Facebook (Shetek Environmental Learning Center pages), email, and text. Please make sure we have your up to date contact information when you register.
- Members MUST have a Minnesota State Park annual pass, or be prepared to purchase a Daily Pass.

What to Wear/Bring (Recommended Items):

Hat, sunglasses, sunblock, bug spray, water bottle, trail snack, comfortable clothing layers + outerwear, good hiking boots/shoes, daypack, compass (trail maps and first aid items provided)

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