

*Draft Program Presented to the State Education Committee 3/12/99*  
*Program Presented to the State Board 10/16/99*  
*Program Approved 10/16/99*  
*Revised 10/16/04*

## **GENTLE USE PROGRAM** **for the RENDEZVOUS**

### **I. GOALS:**

The Gentle Use Program at the Rendezvous will provide educational opportunities for participants to gain knowledge in how to use stock in the backcountry and practice responsible wildland ethics. This program is intended to help participants develop a sense of stewardship and pride toward their behavior while visiting the backcountry.

Participants will:

- ✓ Learn why Gentle Use concepts are important, and how to use them; and
- ✓ Pick up new and/or refresh skills.

The State Education Committee will strive to ensure continuity, consistency, and integrity in the Gentle Use Program at each year's Rendezvous.

### **II. ORGANIZATION:**

#### **A. State Education Committee**

##### **1. *Education Rendezvous Liaison***

The designated "Education Rendezvous Liaison" will coordinate with the Rendezvous Committee and the State Education Chair in reviewing the programs for each year's Rendezvous.

##### Rationale:

- The State Education Committee needs to continually better our educational efforts, and we want to provide continuity in our education programs.
- The Education Rendezvous Liaison will help implement the educational goals for the programs, and will provide the framework and sideboards for the point system for each year's Rendezvous committee.

##### Purpose:

This position will have a two-fold purpose:

- a. To work with the local unit(s) in charge of the seminars at the State Rendezvous helping to ensure a well-rounded program of Gentle Use educational seminars are presented.
- b. To provide information and serve as a resource to the Rendezvous Chair.

Selection:

Application forms will be available at the Rendezvous and should be returned by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Selection will be made by the State Education Chair for a recommended 3 year term. (An application form is included).

Responsibilities:

- ✓ Contact the Rendezvous Committee as soon as possible to ensure they have someone designated as the “Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator.”
- ✓ Work with the Gentle Use Coordinator to provide assistance in developing the schedule of programs, seminars, and clinics for the next Rendezvous.
- ✓ Ensure a report and article is submitted to the State’s newsletter about the Gentle Use Programs.

2. ***Gentle Use Database Coordinator***

Purpose:

- Maintain a database of participants in the Gentle Use Pin Program. Keep records of the points participants’ have accumulated. Include their name, address, phone number, and unit affiliation.
- Maintain a database of qualifying sessions (ie: clinics, seminars, presentations, etc). Include date presented, location, name of presenter, and number of points assigned.
- Maintain a supply of green and silver pins.

Selection:

Application forms will be available at the Rendezvous and should be returned by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Selection will be made by the State Education Chair for a recommended 3 year term. (An application form is included).

Responsibilities:

- Provide a list of seminar topics and categories that have qualified as “Gentle Use” sessions at previous years Rendezvous to the current Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator.
- Provide the current Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator with an updated list of participants and their assigned points. The list should be provided one month prior to the Rendezvous.
- Provide the Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator with a supply of green and silver pins.
- Collect the documentation of names and points accumulated at the Rendezvous, as well as the qualifying sessions.
- Mail pins to qualified participants who did not receive them at the Rendezvous.

## **B. Rendezvous Committee**

### **1. *Gentle Use Coordinator***

Purpose:

To work closely with the State Education Steering Committee, the Education Rendezvous Liaison, and the hosting unit(s) in the selection of the programs, seminars and clinics for the Gentle Use Program at the Rendezvous.

Selection:

The unit(s) hosting the Rendezvous, or the Rendezvous Chairman, should designate an individual for this position. Preferably this selection will be made one year prior to the next Rendezvous.

Responsibilities:

Work with the Education Rendezvous Liaison to complete the following:

- ✓ Review the standards and framework of the Gentle Use program.
- ✓ Identify and select the categories needed to ensure the Gentle Use Program is well rounded and complete from year to year.
- ✓ Provide for enough Gentle Use seminars, clinics and programs to ensure that a minimum of 50 points can be earned.
- ✓ Mail the “Speakers’ Qualification Form” to all presenters who wish to have their seminars included as Gentle Use programs. (Sample included).
- ✓ Evaluate responses and determine if seminars qualify under the Gentle Use categories.
- ✓ Follow-up notification to all who have submitted requests.
- ✓ Notify the individual responsible for printing the program which seminars qualify as Gentle Use Programs. This is necessary as the program needs to identify those that qualify for points.
- ✓ Ensure that an explanation of the Gentle Use Program is printed in the Rendezvous Program to help participants understand how the program works. (Sample text included).
- ✓ Have Gentle Use Program point cards printed for the Rendezvous. (Sample included).

- ✓ Ensure cards are distributed to everyone attending. They should be included in all registration packets, at the State Booth, at the Registration Office, and at each of the seminars.
- ✓ Inform presenters of how the cards work, and how to correctly document the points earned.
- ✓ Arrange for the State Booth to collect the cards and distribute pins to those who qualify at the Rendezvous. Provide the Booth with copies of an updated point list, the procedures for verification, the procedures for the program presenters, and any other information pertaining to the Gentle Use Program.
- ✓ Ensure the cards and participant lists are returned to the Gentle Use Database Coordinator.
- ✓ Review and evaluate the program for improvements and changes.

### **III. GENTLE USE PIN PROGRAM**

#### **A. General Overview**

At each year's Rendezvous, there are a series of seminars that qualify for the Gentle Use Program. Points are assigned to each of the sessions, which can be accumulated (carried over from year to year) to earn awards. The State Education Committee began a pin program for those BCHC members who successfully completed seminars at each Rendezvous. The program began in the mid 1990's, the written program was approved in 1999, and expansion of the program was approved in 2004. A complete description of calculating the point system is located in section **D**.

The Education Rendezvous Liaison will assist the Rendezvous committee with the mechanics of the Gentle Use Pin/Point Program. This includes the following elements:

- categories
- seminar qualification
- values (points)
- cards
- program identification of qualifying seminars (getting the main program for the Rendezvous to clearly identify which seminars qualify for points)
- pick/up distribution of cards (how to, where, etc...)
- marked (how to, who does, etc...)
- instructions to presenters
- instructions to participants (registration packets & on the cards)
- turn in / tally
- pin distribution (getting them from the main keeper of the pins to the State Booth)

## **B. Seminar Qualification**

The Education Rendezvous Liaison will work with the Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator to request that all Gentle Use Programs to be presented have an outline of the presentation submitted, a general overview of the topic, and some background on the speakers' knowledge, skills and abilities. A simple form will be sent to each speaker or presenter to gather this information. A sample questionnaire is included to assist in this task. It may be modified to include additional information that may be important for planning and/or logistics. This information will then help to determine if the course qualifies for the Gentle Use Program, and which category the course falls into. The Liaison will coordinate with the Rendezvous Committee and the State Education Chair to ensure that the Gentle Use Courses are appropriate for points. Seminars with sales promotions, contests, and un-staffed demonstrations will not qualify for the Gentle Use Program.

## **C. Seminar Categories**

A minimum of five categories will be covered each year. The selection of categories chosen each year must take into consideration the categories chosen in the previous year to ensure a well rounded and complete opportunity for program participants.

A suggestion for selection of categories is to select those with an even number for even years, and those with odd numbers for the odd years. The category of "Plan and Prepare", which is indicated by a "0," should be offered every year as it is the base for all of the categories. **See Attached List of Categories and Examples of Qualifying Topics.**

**Core Gentle Use Classes:** Each year's Rendezvous, the Core Classes are decided upon by the State Steering Committee. Generally, these courses are taught by Masters of LNT or Wilderness Riders.

## **D. Point System**

To qualify for the assigned number of points (10 points per seminar is recommended for fairness and simplicity), a seminar should cover a single category for at least 45 minutes. The category may include a variety of topics, but they should relate or pertain to the main category.

### **1. Points Needed for Pins: (pins to be earned in the sequence listed below)**

- For a Green pin, a minimum of 50 points are required.  
(5 classes)
- For a Silver (horseshoe) pin, a minimum of 100 points are required.  
(10 classes)

- For a Silver Rider pin, a minimum of 250 points are required.  
(Must include 10 **Core Gentle Use** classes and 15 additional classes)
- For a Silver Pack Animal pin, a minimum of 100 points are required.  
(the maximum number Pack Animals is 5)

**2. Mechanics of Tracking Points Earned at the Rendezvous**

The Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator is responsible for the printing and distribution of the point cards, and to ensure the Official Rendezvous Program has information included about the Gentle Use Seminars. A sample point card is included.

The State Booth will be the collection point for cards and for the distribution of pins. A sample form is included to help track the points earned at the Rendezvous.

**IV. PROGRAM REVIEW AND EVALUATION:**

To protect the integrity and consistency of the Gentle Use program, the State Education Committee Chair, the Education Rendezvous Liaison and the Rendezvous Gentle Use Coordinator will want to visit and attend as many of the seminars as possible throughout the Rendezvous to evaluate the quality of the presentations and program content. A complete report of the overall Gentle Use Program at the Rendezvous should be prepared.

Suggestions for reporting may include:

- An article for the State Newsletter with information on the number of participants, the number of pins awarded, and any noteworthy accomplishments or sessions.

The Data Base Coordinator should receive a summary with the following:

- A list of the seminars and speakers.
- The categories the seminars were listed under.
- The number of cards printed, and the number actually submitted.
- The number of pins awarded.
- A completed Participants Log Sheet.

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