

### An introduction ...

- In the beginning ... new beginnings
- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- What do we provide?
  - Camp and hiking staff
  - Transportation
  - Tents, meals and water
  - Hygiene and safety
  - Hiking programs
  - Evening programs
- Environmentally friendly and safety conscious
- Gallery
- 2016 at Whiteman Pass
- A final word ...

### In the beginning (1933-1961) ...

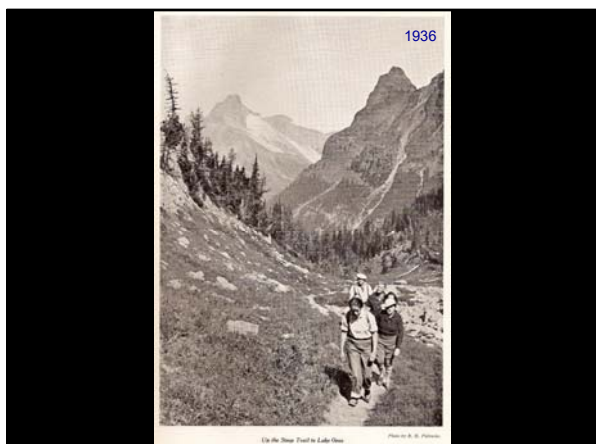
**1932** – committee is struck to form the Skyline Trail Hikers of the Canadian Rockies (renamed later).

**1933** – the Skyline Hikers held its inaugural camp at **Lake Louise & Lake O'Hara** under patronage (sponsorship) of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR).

- CPR saw this venture as way to attract tourists to its Banff Springs & Chateau Lake Louise hotels.
- Companion organizations were:
  - Trail Riders of Canadian Rockies (est. 1923)
  - Ski Runners of Canadian Rockies (est. 1931)

**1936** – base camp concept adopted – in prior years the camp moved daily.

**1961** – CPR ends its patronage of all organizations.



### ... new beginnings (1962-today)

**1962** – Skyline Hikers begins new era as an independent, self-supporting organization to carry on tradition established in the first 29 years.

With much work and sacrifice on part of people the transition in the early years set the path to present-day Skyline Hikers with its greatly expanded camp & hike season.

Evolution of the Skyline Hikers' Insignia



**HISTORY OF SKYLINE HIKERS CAMPSITES IN NATIONAL PARKS**

1936: Lake O'Hara	1963: Egypt Lake	1990: Molar Pass
1937: Larch Valley	1964: Palliser Pass	1991: Bryant Creek
1938: Yoho	1965: Yoho	1992: Tombstone Mountains
1939: Skoki	1966: Tongquin Valley	1993: Sunset Pass
1940: Egypt Lake	1967: Egypt Lake	1994: Owl Lake
1941: Prolific Meadows	1968: Assiniboine	1995: Baker Creek
1942: Sunshine	1969: Pulsatilla Pass	1996: Molar Pass
1943: Spray River	1970: Lake O'Hara	1997: Allenby Pass
1944: Sunshine	1971: Skoki	1998: Sunset Pass
1945: Lake O'Hara	1972: Egypt Lake	1999: Head Creek
1946: Yoho	1973: Assiniboine	2000: Owl Lake
1947: Egypt Lake	1974: South Molar Pass	2001: Molar Pass
1948: Quartz Lake	1975: Palliser Pass	2002: Bryant Creek
1949: Skoki	1976: Owl Lake	2003: Whiteman Pass
1950: Assiniboine	1977: Sunset Pass	2004: Johnson Creek
1951: Aylmer Pass	1978: Baker Creek	2005: Bart Creek
1952: Healy Creek	1979: South Molar Pass	2006: Palliser Pass
1953: Skoki	1980: Nigel Pass	2007: Sunset Pass
1954: Spray Rvr (Palliser)	1981: Owl Lake	2008: Tall Timbers
1955: Lake O'Hara	1982: Sunset Pass	2009: Whiteman Pass
1956: Paradise Valley	1983: Baker Creek	2010: Molar Pass
1957: Snow Creek	1984: Allenby Pass	2011: Odium Creek
1958: Yoho	1985: Molar Pass	2012: Sunset Pass
1959: Egypt Lake	1986: Nigel Pass	2013: South Ram River
1960: Assiniboine	1987: Owl Lake	2014: Johnson Creek
1961: Helmut Creek	1988: Sunset Pass	2015: Palliser Pass
1962: Skoki	1989: Baker Creek	2016: Whiteman Pass

Out of N. Parks

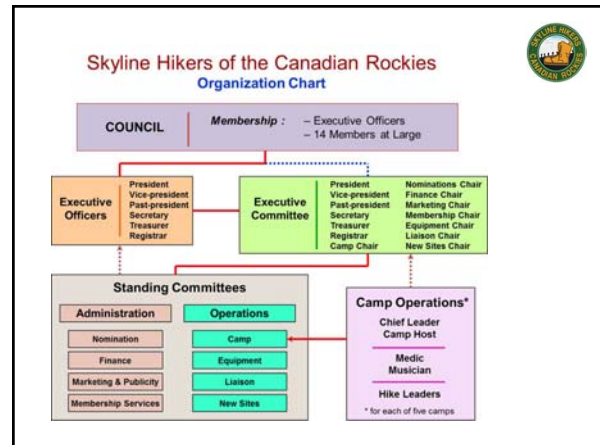
## Who are we?

Skyline Hikers is a not-for-profit volunteer organization registered under the Societies Act of Alberta

Our Principal Aims are:

- Encouragement of hiking in the Canadian Rockies
- Preservation of the National Parks of Canada in their natural state
- Development of an appreciation of mountain places, their flora and fauna, culture and history
- Co-operation with other groups with similar aims

We're all volunteers, about 120 of us....



## Volunteers

We could not do what we do without a lot of volunteer effort!!

## What do we do?


Skyline Hikers provides a base camp & day hiking opportunities in the Canadian Rockies backcountry for 5 consecutive week-long outings in July and August

Guests hike into base camp on Monday, spend the week on day hikes out of base camp & return to the trailhead the following Saturday

Camp location & hikes take place in areas approved by Parks Canada under specific conditions of use (Park employees drop by to assure compliance)

**The purpose of each camp is to provide a backcountry experience with minimal impact on the environment**

## Camp and hiking staff




Each camp has the following volunteer staff:

- Chief Leader
- Host / Hostess
- Medic
- Musician

All hike leaders are volunteers attending the respective camps. They receive no remuneration for leading hikes

The outfitter provides following in-camp staff:

- Cook and helpers
- Wranglers (maintenance duties)





## Transportation




Of people from Banff/Canmore to the trailhead

## Transportation

Of equipment in duffels by horse into camp (you only need carry a day pack)

## Tent Accommodations




Prospector style tents

- Up to 4 per tent
- Open floors
- Knee-high cot with foam mattress provided



## Meals





Hot 2-course breakfast & 3-course dinner

Bag lunches provided for the trail




Dining tent also includes the kitchen

## Water


Katadyne Filter

- To be used for all drinking water that is not boiled
- Tested for impurities


Dining tent also has a water filtration system


- Used for cooking and washing up only
- Tested for impurities

Grey water disposal system (not shown)



## Wash Tents & Biffies





**Wash Tents**

- Separate tents for women & men
- Hot water at 7:00 am & 4:15 pm



**Biffies**


- Strategically located in area near tents
- Urinal area also (not shown)
- Hand sanitizer provided

## Electric Fence





Surrounds perimeter of campsite

## A Typical Day





7:00 a.m.	Wake-up bell – hot water for washing
7:15	Coffee, tea & hot chocolate
7:30	Breakfast
8:00	Pick up bag lunch
8:00 - 8:30	Hike departures begin
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Tea, coffee & hot water for washing
5:00 - 6:00	Happy Hour
6:00	Dinner
8:00	Gathering by the Campfire
11:00	Lights out ... quiet (except for snoring!)

## Hiking Program




- Most hikes in a particular area are unique to the Skyline Hikers.
- 5+ different hikes offered daily. Maximum 10 participants per hike and popular hikes repeated throughout week.
- Hikes range from relatively easy to strenuous & can cover 5 - 25 kilometres (3 - 15 miles) with elevation gains of up to 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) to alpine meadows or ascents up ridges & mountains for panoramic views.
- Maps, descriptions & routing directions prepared for each camp by the Chief Leaders during pre-camp ...
- Chief Leader organizes from among experienced camp participants day leaders for the multiple daily hikes. Hike leaders are equipped with GMSR radios to communicate with Chief Leader, Medic & base camp as required and a first aid kit.



## Hiking Map

Typical hiking map. Detailed descriptions and trail ratings are printed on the back of the map.

## Happy Hour



Gathering every afternoon just before dinner with time to relax and get to know one another


## Evening Program



Each evening at 8:00 pm there is an information & entertainment program around the campfire.




## Evening Program




- Briefing on next day's hike program
- Announcements
- Reports and highlights of the day's hikes
- Expert talks on geology, plants/flowers, wildlife, wilderness survival, tips/techniques, etc.
- Campfire sing-along and musical entertainment

- Friday is Skit Night with skits, poetry, parody songs, etc.



## Environmentally friendly and safety conscious




Skyline Hikers strives to make sure all aspects of campsite activities are low impact:

- Hikers and outfitters pack out everything they bring in
- Tent ridge poles are saved & reused on the return to the site
- Tents have no floors so that ground vegetation disturbance is minimized
- Kitchen water is taken from streams and filtered through a filter system
- Personal drinking water is filtered through a ceramic filter
- Kitchen staff use "Best Practices" to reduce food wastage
- Organic & non-burnable garbage is packed out by horses. No food wastes are burned
- Use of Styrofoam cups & bowls is not permitted. Hikers bring re-usable cups
- Burnable materials and other permitted inorganic waste is burned in approved barrels
- Kitchen waste water and hiker's wash water is passed through a grey water system
- Toilets are pit privies located well away from streams & water courses
- Outfitter uses hay cubes for horses; oats, alfalfa & weed free
- Burning of open fires is very limited, one group fire each evening
- Firewood is obtained out of Park and flown in by helicopter

Once the camps have concluded, all gear is removed and the camp site is raked and reseeded with native grass seed, approved by Parks Canada.

## Environmentally friendly and safety conscious




Skyline Hikers focuses on reducing impact to the environment when hiking and camping:

- We hike on trails approved by Parks Canada to avoid sensitive areas
- We stay on existing trails & spread out to reduce impact when trail is not present
- For safety and environmental reasons, our day hikes have no more than 10 hikers and preferably not fewer than 6, but an absolute minimum of 4 hikers
- Reduce impact of pack horse trains by limiting weight of hikers duffel bags
- Skyline Hikers have kept yearly hikers at ~250 over the five weeks. Typically 45 to 55 hikers per week plus 3 outfitter staff. Have not changed since 1980's

Skyline Hikers continues to develop new sites, including out of National Parks such as Basil and Odium Creeks in the Kananaskis, White Man Pass in BC and South Ram River.

Our goal is to have a rotation for base camp sites to provide varied experience for the hikers and reduce the cumulative impacts at the sites we visit.

## Environmentally friendly and safety conscious



An emergency response plan (ERP) is prepared for each year's hiking site location.

Helicopter evacuation procedures are pre-arranged and included in the ERP.

Each hike is lead by a day leader and assistant leader.

Our day hike groups stay together so as not to disturb wildlife but also to alert wildlife to our presence. Within each day hike group, hikers stay together to help and watch out for one another in the group. Bear spray is available.


Each day hike group carries a first aid kit and portable GMRS radio.

A medical aid volunteer attends each week's camp. We have used doctors, nurses and EMT's in this role. The medical aid volunteer also goes out on day hikes and that group carries a satellite telephone in addition to the portable GMRS radio.

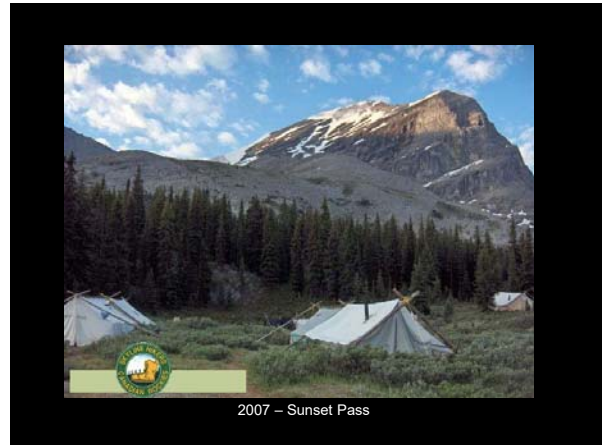
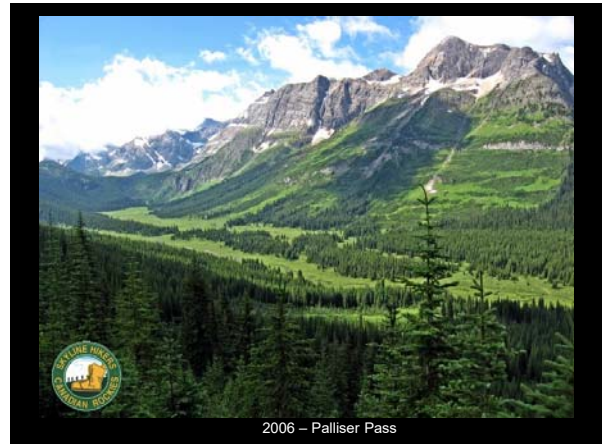
We have a well equipped medical tent at camp.

Potential hikers are advised in our registration package that high altitude hiking is strenuous and they need to be fit.

## Gallery



# Photographs from the Skyline Hiker Newsletter 1986 ~ 2016





2008 – Tall Timbers / Assiniboine



2008 – Tall Timbers / Assiniboine



2008 – Tall Timbers / Assiniboine



2009 – Whiteman Pass



2009 – Whiteman Pass



2010 – Molar Pass



2010 – Molar Pass



2010 – Molar Pass



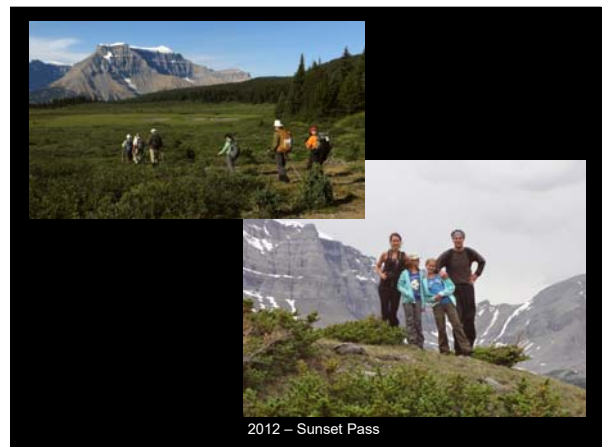
2011 – Odium Creek



2011 – Odium Creek

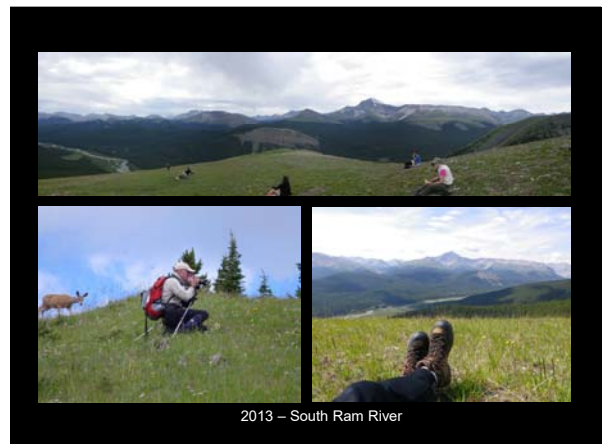
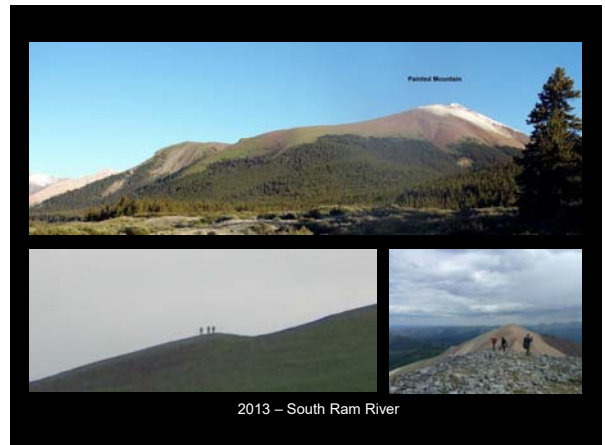


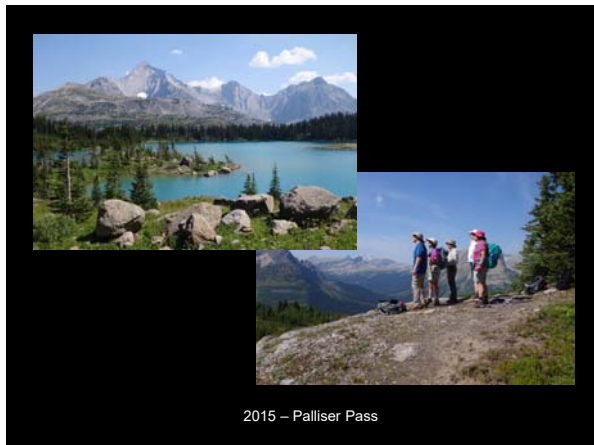
2011 – Odium Creek



2012 – Sunset Pass







## 2019 at Sunset Pass



## 2019 at Tall Timbers



The camp is on Bryant Creek and is an easy hike to Mt. Assiniboine



- Camp 1: July 15 to 20
- Camp 2: July 22 to 27
- Camp 3: July 29 to Aug 3
- Camp 4: August 5 to 10
- Camp 5: August 12 to 17



## A final word ...



"Hello – attached is my submission for the Photo Contest, under the category "On the Trail". I call the photo "The Ragged Edge" and I took it standing on the precipitous edge of a 200+ foot high cliff while doing the Goat Ridge-Pinto Lake-Sunset Pass "Circuit" on July 11, 2012 (Camp 1). *That day was one of the best experiences of my life.*"

## www.skylinehikers.ca



Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

Since 1933, the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies offer a unique way to experience the back country of Canada's mountain parks ...

Navigation menus include: Skyline Hikers, The Expedition, 2018 Details, 2017 Overview, Packing, Hikes, Camps, Current Trips, FAQ, About Us, History, Organization, Contact Us, Photos, Accommodations, Testimonials, Members, Committees, Youth, X-Info, Galleries, Links, Contact Us.

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