



## Love the outdoors? Join the Club!

We began hosting outdoor trips in 1999 with a simple goal, to bring gay and gay-friendly men together to experience the incredible fun of outdoor adventure and to create an atmosphere that leads to life-long friendships. It all began in Boston, but before long, we started growing and attracting members from across the USA. Gay Outdoors [GO] is home of the world's largest gay outdoors club, with more than 7,000 active members in every state and eight foreign countries.

#### **Meet the GOers**

Our members are affectionately known as "the GOers", and that's probably an accurate description of our attitude: we're active but **very** laid-back. That attitude really reflects in the kind of men who get involved with GayOutdoors. People join GayOutdoors for one overwhelming reason: to make new outdoorzy buddies. Maybe in the past that wasn't such a difficult thing, but in the age of internet dating and mobile-powered meet ups, it can be surprisingly difficult to meet the kind of men who you simply want to **hang out** with.

# Love to hike, bike, paddle, or ski? Join the Club!

Daytrips, weekend, extended vacations. Join a variety of getaways ~ from the fun local daytrips to weekend long adventures. Our range of trips includes hiking, camping, backpacking, biking, kayaking, snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, trail work, rock/ice climbing; along with social events. These trips can take place locally or take us to other locales throughout the United States. All trips are organized and led by volunteers, which means they are **free**. We have trips running every weekend across the country.

## How to join the Club

The easiest way to join GO is to visit <a href="https://www.gayoutdoors.org">www.gayoutdoors.org</a> and click on Join/Register in the left column. Membership is **free** so come and explore the site today! You'll fill out an online form to establish a profile and upload pictures of yourself. You'll then find out members who live nearby and ask them to be your buddy. You'll also be sent email notifications of trips posted near you and receive our bi-weekly newsletter. You are guaranteed to meet a great bunch of guys!

#### Skill Levels

All skill levels are welcome in GayOutdoors!

- 20% of our members are beginners
- 50% of our members are intermediates
- 30% of our members are advanced

#### No more fear you won't be able to keep up.

We've all been there. You're on a trip with friends who are more advanced than you are. You feel pressured to do trips that you know is beyond your level and you can't help but think, "this probably isn't a good idea..."

No more. All of our trips are rated so you can find the trips that best suit you. It changes a trip that could have been **daunting** into one that's **amazing**. Push yourself to achieve whatever your particular goal is, whether that's simply getting in a short hike to enjoy nature or ticking off another peak if you're a Peakbagger.

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### Are there GOers like you?

It's an easy answer: **yes**. Have a look at some of our member statistics.

Our membership is entirely composed of gay, bisexual and straight men.

The outdoor activities members enjoy the most in order of interest are: Camping [tent], Biking [road], Hiking, Skiing [alpine/downhill], Canoeing, Backpacking, Snowboarding, Biking [mountain], Kayaking [recreational], Rafting, Skiing [cross-country skiing], Snowshoeing, Paintball, Climbing [rock/ice/mountaineering], Kayaking [sea], and Kayaking [whitewater].

It seems like we are a 50/50 split between single and taken men. Some of the taken men do trips together and others alone because their other half is not into outdoor adventures.

### **Trips Are Free**

What makes us different from gay adventure travel companies and outfitters is that our trips are free. We are run by volunteers and a non-profit. Thanks to our members who give back to the club by volunteering to run trips and host social events there are not any trip leading fees.

## **Membership Benefits**

A **free** guest membership in brings a host of perks and privileges:

Membership Profile: You can upload pictures of yourself and share with other members a little about yourself. Members can find out who is on your buddies list, see what trips you have signed-up for and view photos you've posted in your photo gallery. [You can restrict your profile to appear just for members or not at all].

<u>Search Member Profiles</u>: You can search for other members by zip code, state, activity, age, fitness level, etc. and contact them to plan a trip together; either alone or as a group trip with other gay outdoor members. You can contact members to be your buddy.

Mailing List: We'll instantly send you email notifications of any trips and social events that get posted near you. You can determine the range of miles from your zip code for us to send you email notifications and reminders.

Trip Sign-Ups: You'll be able to sign-up for any trip. Once you do, you'll see you're profile listed on the trip page and be able to see who else has signed up. You can contact the trip leader if you have a question about the trip or ask another member who lives near you to carpool. After the trip, you can write a trip report and upload the photos you took to share with other members.

Posting Trips/Trip Ideas: Post trips and social events of your own and we'll invite other members to join you on your behalf. Our unique technology makes it easy for trip leaders to post trips, edit them, contact participants all at once and manage waiting lists. If you are unsure about interest in a particular trip, you can post a trip idea and have members give you feedback before you make it an 'official' trip.

<u>Forums</u>: You'll have a voice on our forums, including subscribing to one or more so that you'll receive an email each time a new topic/message is posted.