## Trail Runner / Hiker and Trail Running Race Director

## Overview

- Why runners and hikers use the trails
- How to make the trails better and safer
- Why Race Directors use the trails
- How to make public events run smoothly
- Trail maintenance solutions
- How to promote giving back to the land



### **Trail Runners/Hikers User Group**

#### Why we use the trails:

- To stay active and healthy
- Have a variation in terrain
- Avoid repetition
- Vary training locations and distances
- Get off the busy roads
- Discover and experience the quiet, tranquil, and beautiful land



# How to Make the Trails Better for Runners/Hikers

- More trail name signs and trail safety signs
  - Speed limits for mountain bikes especially on single tracks & blind curves
  - Announce passing signs
- Trail signs with mileage
- Signs that offer course loop options
- Work with Google maps to reflect proper trail names
- Create bridges over impassable water obstructions (ex: Santiago Creek Trail during water releases from the dam)
- Promote Trail Rules





#### **Trail Race Director User Group**

#### Why Race Directors use the trails:

- Bring awareness to local trails
- Give runners a goal to work toward
- Offer a variety of races that vary in location, length, difficulty, and terrain
- Trail runners prefer an organic running adventure
- Offer training runs before the races
- Promote giving back to the land





# How to Make Public Events Run Smoothly

- Create a yearly event proposal with detailed plans
- Obtain proper permitting and follow permit quidelines
- Communicate to the public and all park personnel the events taking place in the area
- Announce trail rules prior to the start of the race
- Leave no trace after each event
- Promote giving back to the land

#### **Trail Maintenance Solutions**

- Place more trash cans at busy intersections
- Run or hike with a trash bag
- Solution to avoid creating unwanted trails:
  - Plant cactus in between
  - Create a barrier of plastic mesh fencing
  - Post signs "Do Not Cross" or "New Growth Area" or "Respect the land"
  - Place large logs across new entrances
  - Design a mountain bike park (Irvine Lake) with jumps, ramps, and obstacles - idea comes from the documentary "Pedal Driven"





### Promote Giving Back to the Land

- Organized events offer mass marketing,
  promotion of trail activities, trail safety rules
- Connect with companies that have the same
  "corporate causes" to get volunteers for trail work
  (ex: REI, Whole Foods)
- Connect with local schools to recruit students that need service hours
- Offer discounts or incentive to volunteers (ex: Into the Wild OC Trail Runs offers \$10 discounts into our races)



