

Politically Correct Sierra outings

This is the age of Politically Correct thought. To be politically correct one must not speak nor write nor think any word or phrase that could in any way be considered a derogatory comment on gender, religion, race, national origin, physical or mental condition, sexual orientation, or species. (In writing this non-exhaustive list, I know I run the risk of being politically incorrect by some omission, for which I effusively apologize in advance.)

The Sierra Club would like to include in its membership persons from all walks of life. (I've often wondered what a Walk of Life is, but that question will be left for another day.) The reality of our organization, however, is that it is predominantly white (Euro-American) and middle class. To ensure that the Sierra Club is in harmony with the mood of our culture, the outings honchos are formulating policy guidelines to govern camping trips, hikes, canoe float trips, and other Sierra-sponsored outings for the Politically Correct.

person. Straight white men will be permitted on politically correct outings, but only if they are guilt-ridden and contrite about their status.

After making sure the participant population is balanced, the next step is for all involved to hold a group discussion to sensitize everyone to the "rules" of a politically correct Sierra outing. The term "rules" must be used cautiously, lest someone be offended by the authoritarian tone of the word. Sensitive participants may prefer to speak of "guidelines" or "suggestions."

The first of these rules/guidelines/suggestions is the absolute prohibition of gender-specific words in conversation. For example, "mankind" and "maternity leave" are inappropriate and should be replaced by "humankind" and "parental leave." An exception will be made for any eco-feminist participants who will be allowed to refer to "Mother Nature" and to speak of God as "She."

The outings participants must also discuss food. Anyone suggesting

So what is beyond politically correct outings? Even as you read these lines, Sierra outings honchos are consulting shamans, astrologers, and channelers to set policy for New Age outings. Stay tuned. Δ

— Earl Higgins

...one meal shall include organically grown broccoli, in defiance of our broccoli-disdaining erstwhile environmental president...

The first point is the abolition of trip "leaders." This term has hierarchical connotations, suggests male dominance, and implies an exclusiveness (leader versus followers) that is repugnant to politically correct sensitivity. Those who have volunteered to plan the trip will be designated as "organizers" or "facilitators" and will do no more than initiate the trip planning. All decisions concerning the trip (type of trip, where to go, when, etc.) will be made by vote of those going, with due respect to and extensive discussion of any dissenting opinions.

Any outing that makes it past the first stage must then check the gender/race/national origin/sexual preference status of those participating. All politically correct Sierra outings must include: (a) at least one Hispanic/Latino(a)/Spanish-named person; (b) at least one African-American/Black/Negro; (c) one Native American/American Indian; (d) one gay/lesbian/homosexual; (e) one habitation-deprived/homeless

that meat be included will be asked to leave. Tofu, sprouts, nuts, and berries provide excellent nutrition without the polluting effects of sugar, white flour, eggs, and dairy products. As a matter of club policy, on all politically correct outings at least one meal shall include organically grown broccoli, in defiance of our broccoli-disdaining erstwhile environmental president, George Bush.

Participants must also discuss whether to have a campfire on their outing. They must decide whether the need for warmth, cooking, and social interaction (a/k/a fellowship) is not outweighed by the threat of thermal and air pollution and the ensuing contribution to global warming.

At some point in the pre-outing meetings, every politically correct outing group must spend at least thirty minutes discussing how western civilization in general and Christopher Columbus in particular are responsible for all ills affecting mankind (err. humankind).



Now is the time to take action to protect our home planet. There are many simple ways you can help. Like recycling, taking public transportation and conserving water and energy resources. We'd like to suggest one more: Join the Sierra Club.

Join the Sierra Club.

Yes, I want to protect the only planet we have for just 10¢ a day.

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