

PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR A BEYOND HIKING TRIP

Get your muscles ready for the endurance they will need for a week in the mountains!

#1 Cardio Exercise

Physically prepare by doing physical activity at least 3x a week for 30 minutes or more. Going for a hike, run, bike ride, or working out on a cardio machine are a good options.

#2 Add Strength Conditioning

Building muscle and doing exercises to replicate the weight of the pack and the vertical feet you will be climbing will be super helpful. Don't forget to stretch!

- ✓ Add 3 sets of 20 lunges to your workouts to help your legs adapt to the stress that a backpack will have on them. You can break them up by doing one set after you're warmed up, one set in the middle of your workout and one at the end.
- ✓ Add 3 sets of the Bridge (or Plank): a core exercise where your body is parallel to the ground, elbows and toes are touching the floor and your back is straight with the belly tight. Hold this pose for thirty seconds to one minute. These will help build endurance of your core muscles.

#3 Add More Cardio

Once you are comfortable doing 30 minutes of physical activity, add one more day and/or make one day into a longer workout (more than 45 minutes long). Some examples would be going for an hour run or a challenging hike. Continue to do lunges (add weight when they are not as challenging).

Train Together

If possible, take your group on a few hikes together before coming to Beyond. Take day packs with you that have a few heavier items in them. The more you do this, the better your body will adjust to hiking at Beyond. It will also give your group a good start in learning how to work together in the mountains.

Don't have time to go on a hike or have trails nearby? Another idea is to get together at someone's house and do a group work out. Create stations around the house such as lunges, stairs, push-ups, sit-ups, wall-sits, "the bridge" (see above), hand stands against a wall, dips on a chair, etc. Have everyone start with a different activity. Do each activity for one minute. Continue rotating until everyone does all the stations. Crank up the tunes and repeat the whole cycle three times.

Break in your Hiking Boots

Wear them whenever you can: walking around the house or hiking on the trail. One fun idea is to go for an "Urban Hike." Get your group together, put on your hiking boots, and walk around the town/city. You can even do this with backpacks on if you have them.