

## **VOLUNTEER HURRICANE MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER STEWARD**

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club) works to protect New York State wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. Since 1922, the organization has worked to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports the ethical and safe use of New York's outdoor spaces. A member, donor, and volunteer-supported organization, ADK reaches across New York through its 27 chapters to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically.

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

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The three core goals of the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Stewardship Program are to 1) Protect and preserve the fire tower and forest, 2) Inform and educate hikers about the tower and its role in protecting the Adirondack Forest, and 3) Help hikers have an enjoyable experience. Volunteer fire tower stewards help achieve these goals through educational outreach with hikers on the summit of Hurricane Mountain. As a part of this, stewards spend each day sharing the history of the fire tower, informing hikers about local regulations and Leave No Trace, introducing them to subalpine vegetation, and otherwise orienting visitors within the Adirondack Park's rich geography, ecology, and history.

The Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Friends of Hurricane Mountain.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- Through "low-key," person to person educational contacts on the summits protect the fire tower and surrounding forest.
- Provide hikers with interpretive education to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Adirondack Park history, ecology, and botany.
- Encourage hikers to follow DEC regulations and inform Forest Rangers of trail misuse and emergencies.
- Gather and report use figures from the summits
- The Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Stewardship Program shall not be responsible for initiating or conducting backcountry search and rescue operations.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with a diversity of people
- Commitment to stewardship and environmental education
- Ability to hike a moderate distance

- Comfortable hiking and standing in inclement weather
- Willingness to wear required uniform
- Able to complete paperwork at end of each service day
- Attend training prior to performing stewardship activities and this training needs to be approved by DEC and ADK
- All new volunteers must spend a minimum of three days in the field team stewarding with the Stewardship Manager

## **SCHEDULE**

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- Get radio, map case and first aid kit at Cascade Welcome Center
- Arrive at trailhead at 7:30 am
- Hike to the summit, aiming to arrive by 9 or 9:30am
- Spend a day on the summit, talking to visitors and spreading the message of fire tower stewardship; tally number of visitors with whom you converse using clicker
- Depart summit at approximately 4-4:30pm
- Return radio, map case, first aid kit and completed online report form

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT**

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As an organization, we appreciate a diverse set of skills and candidates eager and willing to grow and learn with our organization. As such, our volunteer position descriptions are general overviews, not a mandatory comprehensive list. If you feel passionate about our efforts and believe that you have the skills and aptitude to succeed in this role, we want to hear from you.

ADK affirms its commitment to equal volunteer opportunity for all individuals. Decisions about recruiting, training, benefits, and all similar volunteer matters are made in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and without regard to race, color, religion, gender, ethnic or national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, military status or any other classification protected by federal or state law.