



Heart Lake Program Center  
1002 Adirondack Loj Road  
Lake Placid, NY  
518-523-3441 | [info@adk.org](mailto:info@adk.org)

## VOLUNTEER LEAN-TO ADOPTER

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

---

ADK Lean-to Adopters play an essential role in consistent annual maintenance and monitoring of existing lean-tos. An ADK Lean-to Adopter is a dedicated volunteer professional who enjoys working to maintain lean-tos throughout the Adirondack Park, and at times, leads and educates others in lean-to maintenance. Lean-to Adopters must be at least 18 years of age. They are an active steward of the Forest Preserve and act as an ambassador for ADK and share ADK's mission with the public, encouraging membership and involvement. These individuals must be comfortable with working in backcountry wilderness areas, sometimes alone and in extreme weather conditions. They should have a thorough knowledge of ADK's mission and goals, NYS DEC regulations and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

---

- **Routine Lean-to Maintenance Activities:** Adopters are responsible for the general light maintenance that lean-tos require on an annual basis. The ADK's Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) with the DEC is very explicit in the kinds of work that are and are not permitted to be performed by Lean-to Adopters. Any other activity not listed is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a future amendment to the VSA. The following maintenance activities are allowed and encouraged to be performed to the volunteer's best ability and standard of training:
  - Cleaning of fireplaces or fire rings.
  - Removal of accumulated garbage and other refuse.
  - Removal of fallen trees and woody debris (blowdown) in the lean-to site.
  - Replacement or repair of privy doors.
  - Privies may be relocated to suitable locations as defined in Department policy.
  - Register Maintenance.
  - Authorized trail marking and sign replacement.
- **Partner Communication:** The Lean-to Adopter is responsible for notifying the Supervising Forester of the lean-to at least two weeks before a lean-to visit. The Adopter will provide information about the location and type of work to be performed and the names of those doing the work. The Adopter will notify the Department contact person within 48 hours of completing

the work. Within one week after the completion of activities, the Adopter will report the details of the work accomplished to the Supervising Forester utilizing ADK's Lean-to Adopter online Work Report. The Adopter will notify the Supervising Forester of any injury sustained by any volunteer within 24 hours of the incident or if they are unable to perform the work during the term agreement.

- **Maintain up-to-date training:** Active Stewards must participate in annual online training. In-person training is mandatory for first-time Trail Stewards, and must be refreshed every third year.

## **SCHEDULE**

---

As a self-motivated volunteer program, once a Lean-to Adopter is registered and trained, the Adopter has the responsibility to visit and perform maintenance on their lean-to at least twice a year, ideally once before the end of June and again before the end of October. The exact days and times are up to the volunteer. Online and in-person training is mandatory and offered every year between May and June.

## **VOLUNTEER BENEFITS**

---

Lean-to Adopters receive a free ADK membership, which includes a subscription to ADK's magazine *Adirondac*, free skiing and snowshoeing at Cascade Welcome Center, and discounts on Heart Lake Program Center parking, publications, programming, merchandize and lodging.

Upon successful on-boarding, Lean-to Adopters will receive an ADK Lean-to Adopter Patch and ADK Trail Maintenance Handbook. Trainings offer certifications in Leave No Trace education, Wilderness First Aid, and a map and compass course. At the end of each field season, a volunteer celebration will be held to recognize the hard work and dedication adopters put forth during the field season.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT**

---

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.