



Heart Lake Program Center
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Lake Placid, NY
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VOLUNTEER SUMMIT 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

The goal of the Volunteer Summit Stewardship Program is to protect New York's fragile alpine ecosystem through environmental education, trail maintenance, and research. A Volunteer Summit Steward's foremost goal is to encourage hikers to walk on the solid bedrock above treeline, thereby protecting the threatened and endangered flora of the alpine zone. The Volunteer Summit Stewardship Program focuses on the High Peaks region, specifically Mt. Marcy, Algonquin Peak, Wright Peak, Mt. Colden, Cascade Mountain, and Giant Mountain.

The Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort of the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK).

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Through "low-key," person to person educational contacts on the summits protect the endangered alpine flora by encouraging hikers to walk on the solid bedrock.
- Provide hikers with interpretive education to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the alpine communities. Have information available about the natural history, ecology, and botany of the summits.
- Complete alpine trail definition projects which include: (re)building rock cairns, scree walls, and rock packing.
- Encourage hikers to follow DEC regulations and inform Forest Rangers of trail misuse and emergencies.
- Gather and report use figures from the summits to be incorporated into the High Peaks Unit Management Plan.
- The Volunteer Summit 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
- Knowledge/awareness of alpine zone environmental issues
- Ability to hike moderate to long distances
- Comfortable hiking and standing in inclement weather
- Willingness to wear required uniform
- Able to complete paperwork at end of each service day
- Commit to a minimum of 5 days of volunteering over the course of the field season (mid-May through Indigenous Peoples' 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 Summit Steward Coordinator and Chief Steward

SCHEDULE

Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, & Colden:

- Arrive at Adirondak Loj at 7:15 am
- Get radio, map case and first aid kit at pick up location
- Hike to the summit, aiming to arrive by 9 or 9:30am, trying for earlier on Saturdays
- Spend a day on the summit, talking to visitors and spreading the message of alpine 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 report form

Cascade & Giant:

- Same schedule as above, except that radio, map case, and first aid kit can be picked up at separate locations.

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.