

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS 2017 TRIP SCHEDULE



GET OUT. GIVE BACK.



**American
Hiking
Society**

ALTRUISTIC ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Now in its fifth decade of service, American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations program is a series of week-long trail stewardship trips, which offer participants unique vacation experiences in iconic outdoor recreation locales across the country. Under the direction and guidance of trail-building professionals, participants spend their vacation learning to build sustainable trails, meeting other outdoor enthusiasts, and connecting with nature.

The 2017 Volunteer Vacations schedule offers diverse project destinations, rewarding trail stewardship opportunities, and experienced land managers that are eager and appreciative of your assistance. Trips offer a range of difficulty levels and accommodations and do not require any special skills or prior trail maintenance experience, just a good attitude and willingness to get a little dirty. From the peaks of Washington to the beaches of California to the lakes of Minnesota, American Hiking's exciting line-up of volun-tour projects offers a full range of outdoor experiences that are good for the body and the spirit.



BEFORE



AFTER

Mojave National Preserve, CA
Photo: Leigh Scott



Chugach National Forest, AK
Photo: David Michaels

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who volunteers for these projects? Our volunteers come from all walks of life and from across the country. Age ranges from teens to 80. Volunteers under the age of 18 are welcome on certain trips if accompanied by a legal guardian. Each trip lists the minimum age allowed on the project details page. While most trips include friends traveling together, or a few couples, many participants travel alone. Trips are a wonderful way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts- you will come together as strangers, and leave as friends!

What is a typical day like? Expect to rise early and eat a hearty breakfast, hike (or be driven) to the worksite and perform trail maintenance and building tasks for 6-8 hours (with lunch and breaks on the trail), and return to camp to prepare and enjoy a well-deserved dinner with your fellow crew members. Spend the evening relaxing around the campfire or cabin, going for a hike, or participating in an interpretive program or activity. All trips include at least a half-day for activities or exploration outside of the project work. Many hosts will lead guided hikes, provide a tour of the local attractions, or supply you with ideas for enjoying your “free-day”.

What if I have never done trail maintenance? We welcome you! Volunteers should be in good physical condition, but prior trail maintenance experience is not required for any of our trips. Please read the project descriptions carefully, honestly assess your physical capabilities, and choose the trip that fits your hiking experience and current health. We are happy to assist you with choosing a trip that is in line with your physical ability and experience.

How do I get to the project site? Volunteers are responsible for booking their own flights or making driving arrangements to the project area. Many hosts offer an airport pickup and drop-off at a specific time. The project confirmation will include these details as well as a meeting time and location for those driving. **You should not make non-refundable travel arrangements before the trip has been confirmed.**

If the host cannot provide an airport pickup, volunteers must make their own travel arrangements to get to the project site. We recommend airport shuttles, renting a car, or driving your personal vehicle to the project site. We will provide a crew roster in the confirmation email- you are welcome to coordinate carpooling with your fellow crew members.

Are meals provided? Food is provided for all Volunteer Vacations. The American Hiking crew leader or project host will coordinate the menu for the week based on the dietary restrictions/allergies you list on your registration form. If possible, the crew leader will shop in advance of the trip for the groceries. While the crew leader will work to provide a menu plan that accommodates everyone’s preferences, those with specific food allergies or dietary restrictions may be asked to bring some of their own food. Food preparation, meal clean-up, and other camp chores are split amongst the crew. The crew leader will delegate these duties to the crew upon arrival. All volunteers share in cooking responsibilities and camp chores. Volunteers cover the cost of meals eaten out or any meals outside of the designated meal plan.

Where will I sleep? Accommodations will be arranged in advance at either an indoor cabin or dormitory, improved front-country campsite, or a backcountry primitive location. Campsites range from developed campgrounds with bathroom/shower



Manistee National Forest, MI
Photo: US Forest Service

facilities to primitive backcountry sites. Volunteers are required to bring their own tent, sleeping bag, pad, and mess kit for trips that involve camping. Projects that provide indoor accommodations usually will require volunteers to bring their own sleeping bag or linens. Detailed accommodations descriptions can be found on our website bit.ly/2017Volunteer.

What should I bring? Your gear needs will vary greatly based on your trip, project location, and accommodations. Detailed gear needs will be communicated in the project confirmation and from your crew leader in advance of your trip. On every trip, volunteers should be prepared with the following:

1. Sturdy (broken-in) boots and extra socks
2. Long pants and long sleeved shirt for trail work
3. Daypack
4. Water bottle/hydration (at least 2L capacity)
5. Work gloves
6. Rain Jacket
7. Insect Repellent and Sunscreen
8. Comfortable camp clothes for post workdays
9. Plate, bowl, cup or travel mug, eating utensils
10. Personal toiletries/medications

For camping trips, volunteers also provide their own tent, sleeping bag, pad, and personal gear. For backpacking trips, volunteers also provide their own backpack and should be prepared to carry their own gear to basecamp unless otherwise noted. Tools, safety equipment, and cooking equipment are provided by the host agency or organization.



Photo: Rich Wright

PROJECT GUIDE

Trips are rated to help you find a project that suits your needs and physical ability. While trips do not require prior trail maintenance experience, all of our projects require participants to be in good physical condition and will involve 30-40 hours of physical labor during the week. The following project guide should help you determine the type of trip that is right for you. Full project descriptions can be found on our website at bit.ly/2017Volunteer.



Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, MT
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

HIKE



DAY HIKING: Trips do not require backpacking to base camp/lodging. Each day, the crew will hike to the project site (or be driven to the trailhead) to work.



BACKPACKING: Trips involve backpacking to base camp. You must provide your own camping gear and be prepared to carry your personal gear (and possibly a portion of food/tools) to base camp.



PADDLING: A limited number of trips include paddling to basecamp. These trips will be similar to backpacking in that the crew will be self-sufficient on the gear they bring with them in the canoe. You must provide your own camping gear.

ACCOMMODATIONS



CAR CAMPING SITES: Base camp will be car accessible. Most improved tent sites will offer running water and bathroom access (but this is not guaranteed- check the trip details for what is offered at your campsite). You must provide your own personal camping gear.



PRIMITIVE CAMPING SITES: Base camp will be in an undeveloped backcountry location. Most primitive tent sites will not have access to indoor bathrooms. (Check the trip details to see if any amenities are offered at your campsite). You must provide your own personal camping gear.



INDOOR LODGING: Base camp will be indoors (i.e. shelter, cabin, lodge, house). Check the project description online for details on what to bring. Some projects will provide linens and some will require you to bring linens or a sleeping bag.

PROJECT RATING



EASY: Trips provide car-camping or indoor accommodations and day hiking up to 3 miles throughout the day. Work usually includes general trail maintenance.



MODERATE-DIFFICULT: Trips usually provide car-camping or indoor accommodations with longer day hikes (4+ miles) and more demanding physical work. If backpacking is included, the hike is less than 3 miles to basecamp. The work may include heavy lifting, lots of bending, shoveling, picking, chopping, and/or sawing.



STRENUOUS-VERY STRENUOUS: Trips usually require backpacking more than 3 and up to 10 miles into base camp. Generally, these projects are rated strenuous due to the backpacking distance and terrain or elevation. Prior backpacking experience is strongly recommended. The work may include heavy lifting, lots of bending, shoveling, picking, chopping, and/or sawing.

2017 VOLUNTEER VACATIONS BY DATE

January

No trips offered this month

February

2/26 - 3/04 Gulf Islands National Seashore Florida p. 19

March

3/05 - 3/11 Saguaro National Park Arizona p. 14

3/05 - 3/11 Black Rock Mountain State Park Georgia p. 20

3/05 - 3/11 Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge Texas p. 35

3/12 - 3/18 Sweetwater Creek State Park Georgia p. 21

3/12 - 3/18 Natchez Trace State Park Tennessee p. 34

3/19 - 3/25 Mount Tipton Wilderness Area Arizona p. 14

3/19 - 3/25 Los Padres National Forest California p. 17

April

4/02 - 4/08 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Indiana p. 23

4/02 - 4/08 Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area Tennessee p. 33

4/16 - 4/22 Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Florida p. 19

4/23 - 4/29 Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Nat'l Monument New Mexico p. 30

4/23 - 4/29 Adirondack Park New York p. 31

4/26 - 5/01 King Range National Conservation Area California p. 16

May

5/07 - 5/13 Stanislaus National Forest California p. 18

5/07 - 5/13 General Butler State Resort Park Kentucky p. 23

5/07 - 5/13 Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail Tennessee p. 33

5/17 - 5/24 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Minnesota p. 24

June

6/04 - 6/9 Chugach National Forest Alaska p. 12

6/04 - 6/10 Manti-La Sal National Forest Utah p. 36

6/11 - 6/17 Olympic National Forest Washington p. 39

6/18 - 6/24 San Juan Islands National Monument Washington p. 40

6/25 - 7/01 Klamath National Forest California p. 17

July

7/09 - 7/15 Custer Gallatin National Forest Montana p. 29

7/25 - 7/30 Golden Gate National Recreation Area California p. 15

7/30 - 8/05 Cross Vermont Trail, Groton State Forest Vermont p. 37

August

8/01 - 8/06 Golden Gate National Recreation Area California p. 15

8/05 - 8/12 Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, Flathead National Forest Montana p. 28

8/05 - 8/13 Eagle Cap Wilderness, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Oregon p. 32

8/20 - 8/26 Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area Montana p. 27

September

9/10 - 9/16 Itasca State Park Minnesota p. 25

9/10 - 9/16 Monongahela National Forest West Virginia p. 40

9/17 - 9/23 Appalachian National Scenic Trail Maine p. 24

9/17 - 9/23 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Minnesota p. 26

9/17 - 9/23 Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail Tennessee p. 33

9/17 - 9/23 Kiptopeke State Park Virginia p. 39

9/24 - 9/30 Frontenac State Park Minnesota p. 25

9/24 - 9/30 Hungry Mother State Park Virginia p. 38

October

10/1 - 10/07 Coconino National Forest Arizona p. 13

10/1 - 10/07 Adirondack Park New York p. 31

10/15 - 10/21 Shawnee National Forest, Touch of Nature Center Illinois p. 22

10/15 - 10/21 Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge Texas p. 35

November

11/05 - 11/11 Kolomoki Mounds State Park Georgia p. 21

11/18 - 11/25 Virgin Islands National Park, St. John Virgin Islands p. 37

11/25 - 12/2 Virgin Islands National Park, St. John Virgin Islands p. 37

December

No trips offered this month

2017 VOLUNTEER VACATION LOCATIONS

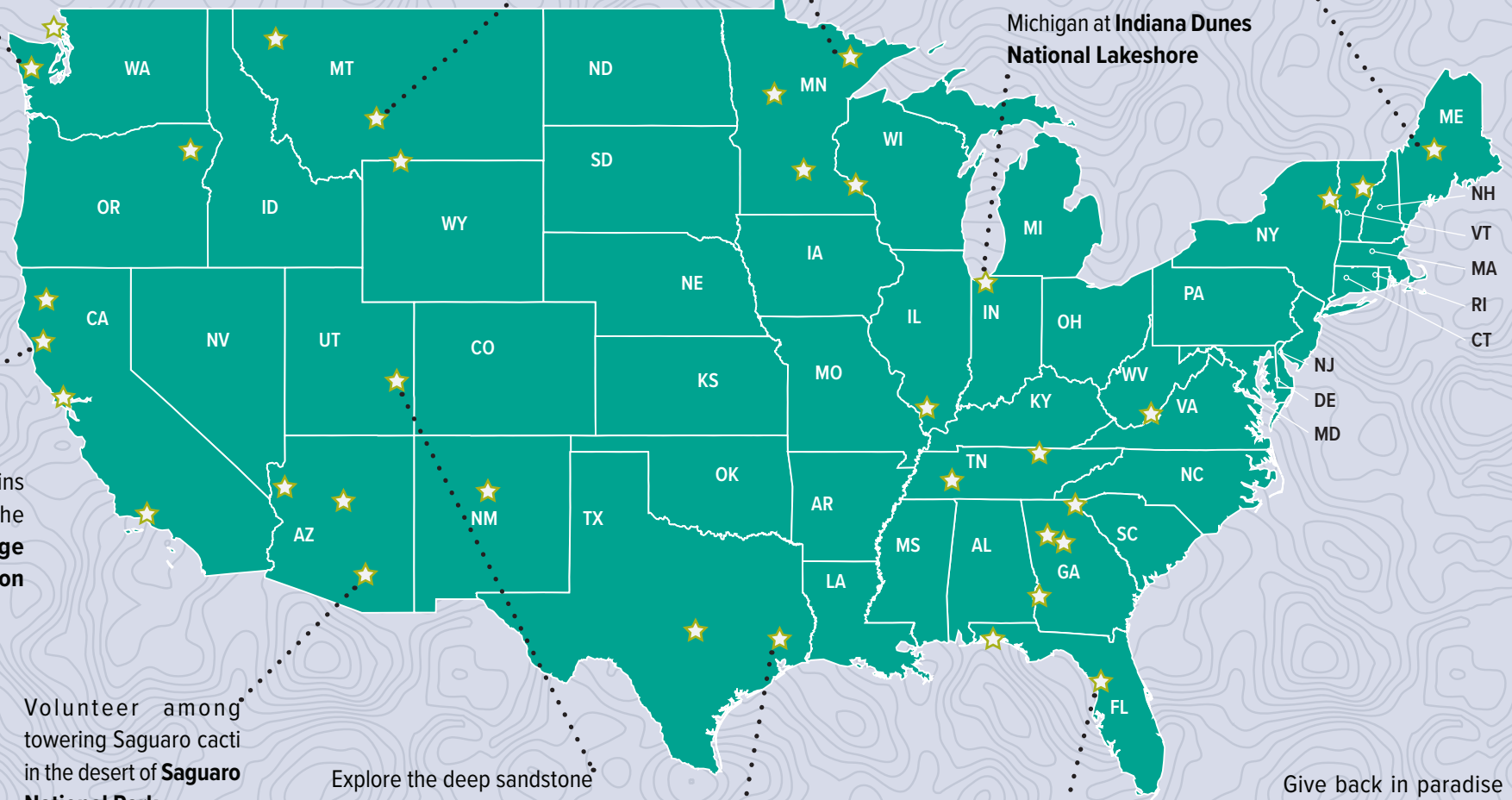
Surround yourself with mountains and lush rain forests in the scenic **Olympic National Forest**

Camp in a meadow beside towering Montana mountains in the **Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area**

Surround yourself with the forests and lakes of Minnesota in the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**

Experience the beauty of the **Appalachian Trail** in Autumn under the cover of golden fall foliage

Volunteer along the shores of the beautiful Lake Michigan at **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore**



Camp where mountains meet the ocean in the beautiful **King Range National Conservation Area**

Volunteer among towering Saguaro cacti in the desert of **Saguaro National Park**

Explore the deep sandstone canyons and high mountaintops of **Manti-La Sal National Forest**

Experience serenity among the cypress trees of **Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge**

Give back in paradise in the beautiful **Virgin Islands National Park**

Camp and hike in the wild backcountry of Alaska in **Chugach National Forest**

Keep your eyes peeled for manatee sightings as you volunteer among the crystal-clear spring waters and salt marsh trails of **Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge**

2017 Trip locations are indicated with a ☆. We have highlighted just a few of the amazing locales that we are excited to Get Out and Give Back to in 2017. For full descriptions of all of our trips, visit bit.ly/2017Volunteer.



2017 VOLUNTEER VACATION INDEX

ALASKA

Chugach National Forest

6/4/2017 - 6/9/2017



PROJECT: Invasive weed control is a vital and ongoing effort on the Chugach National Forest! We have relatively few infestations thus our work in controlling weeds has a huge impact. Volunteers will be traveling via train (no additional fee) to Spencer Glacier and Lake area to control dandelions and other non-natives along newly developed trails and recreation sites. Work will consist of a 4-mile hike with 1,500' elevation gain. The crew will stay at Spencer until Wednesday before departing to camp at Porcupine Campground in Hope, AK to control non-native species along the Hope Point and Gull Rock Trails. Hope Point Trail is extremely steep and climbs approximately 3,500' in about 2 miles. During the final day, the group will control European Bird Cherry in the town of Hope. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The crew will begin their work in beautiful Spencer, a backcountry location that will be accessed by a free, scenic train ride. While working on the Spencer Bench Trail, the crew will have spectacular views of Spencer Glacier and Spencer Lake. For the second part of the trip, the group will stay in Porcupine Campground in Hope, AK. Here volunteers will focus on the very steep, Hope Point Trail, which provides spectacular views. During the evenings, participants can walk to the historic town of Hope, AK. During free time, volunteers can arrange to go to several towns on or near the Kenai Peninsula, including Seward, Girdwood, Hope, and Whittier.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Ted Stevens International Airport

ARIZONA

Coconino National Forest

10/1/2017 - 10/7/2017



PROJECT: This project will be on Passage 29, Happy Jack, which travels 30+ miles on the forested Colorado Plateau. Here isn't the desert many people imagine when they think of Arizona, but instead a vast Ponderosa woodland, rich with wildlife and human history. Unfortunately, about 18 miles of this passage currently lay on roadway. The USFS Mogollon Rim Ranger District has launched a concerted effort to remove the trail from roadway and construct new trail to National Scenic Trail standards. This project will be creating new single-track through the forest canopy, across meadows and stretches of chaparral. It may include brushing, tread work, small stone work projects and moving debris. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Arizona Trail Happy Jack Passage 29 travels through the largest continuous stand of Ponderosa Pine in the world. These majestic trees stretch out over the plateau smelling sweetly of vanilla and cinnamon and supporting a vibrant forest community under their branches. To get to our site, we will travel over the Mogollon Rim, one of Arizona's defining landforms. This massive escarpment marks the southern boundary of the Colorado Plateau. The northern end of this passage is at Mormon Lake, the largest natural lake in Arizona. Above Mormon Lake tower the magnificent San Francisco Peaks, a string of dormant volcanoes that emerge from the plateau just outside of Flagstaff. Volunteers will be provided with a guided day hike in either Grand Canyon National Park or on Humphrey's Peak, the highest point in Arizona.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Sky Harbor International Airport

Mount Tipton Wilderness Area

3/19/2017 - 3/25/2017



PROJECT: Volunteer crews will work on a variety of trail projects in recreation and wilderness areas consisting primarily of Mojave desert scrub- creosote bush, white bursage, and areas of mesquite and juniper. Maintenance activities will include maintaining trail tread as well clearing brush from the trail. Volunteer to give back to this incredible desert wilderness! **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The 30,760-acre Mount Tipton Wilderness is located in Mohave County, 25 miles north of Kingman, Arizona. This wilderness includes the entire northern half of the imposing Cerbat Mountains. Although Mount Tipton Peak, at 7,148', dominates the wilderness, the true centerpiece and main scenic attraction here is the Cerbat Pinnacles. Mojave Desert shrub vegetation makes up the lowest elevations with small stands of juniper in sheltered areas. There are over 230 vertebrate wildlife species known to utilize the area. These species include mule deer, a wide-variety of reptiles (snakes, gila monsters, etc.), and other small game including quail and cottontail rabbit. The project area encompasses primarily the lowland Mojave Desert scrub. Volunteers will be ushered to the Grand Canyon on their free day for a day of exploration!

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is McCarran International Airport

Saguaro National Park

3/5/2017 - 3/11/2017



PROJECT: Saguaro National Park needs volunteers to aid in the repair of the Arizona Trail, a National Scenic Trail! Volunteers will begin their hike at a former ranger station along the banks of a seasonal stream that flows into tinajas (rock pools) and climb upward into the Oak Woodland. Tools, food, protective gear, and kitchen equipment will be hauled up the mountain by mule support. Volunteers will maintain the Arizona Trail by clearing the path of debris, breaking down berm, and digging out drains. Volunteers will also control spring growth by pruning back trees, brush, and cacti from the trail corridor.

Backpacking 5 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day)

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The starting point of the journey will be the Old Madrona Ranger Station (weather permitting). The desert foothills and lowlands are home to Desert Tortoises and Gila Monsters. The iconic Saguaro Cacti here can grow over two stories in height! As we ascend the Rincon Mountains we will traverse through Desert Grassland, Cactus Forests, and Camp in Oak Woodlands. The Park is an International Dark-Sky Member and offers a brilliant night sky. The Grass Shack Campground hosts a nearby stream teeming with a great variety of plants from blooming flowers to ferns and mosses to cacti. Native wildlife such as deer, squirrels, bears and coyotes frequent the area for drinks at dawn and dusk.

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Tucson International Airport

Coconino National Forest, AZ
Photo: Arizona Trail Association





Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA
Photo: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

CALIFORNIA

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

7/25/2017 - 7/30/2017

8/1/2017 - 8/6/2017



PROJECT: The Parks' trails need you! Help with coastal trail projects in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. Projects will include repairing trail tread and drainage systems, re-grading trails, cutting back encroaching vegetation along trail corridors, hauling heavy materials, and maintaining and reconstructing trail features such as staircases, fences, and boardwalks. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The Golden Gate National Recreation Area consists of a network of National Parks, Monuments, and Historic Sites located in the San Francisco Bay Area, and stretches 70 miles north and south of the Golden Gate Bridge along the Pacific Ocean. The Parks include ancient redwoods, historic landmarks, miles of trails, rocky shorelines, rare and endangered species, lush coastal wilderness, and breathtaking vistas. Staying in Kent Canyon is an extremely rare opportunity to explore a spectacular section of the San Francisco Bay Area and California coast. Volunteer for the opportunity to explore the diverse beauty of Golden Gate National Recreation Area!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from San Francisco International Airport

King Range National Conservation Area

4/26/2017 - 5/1/2017



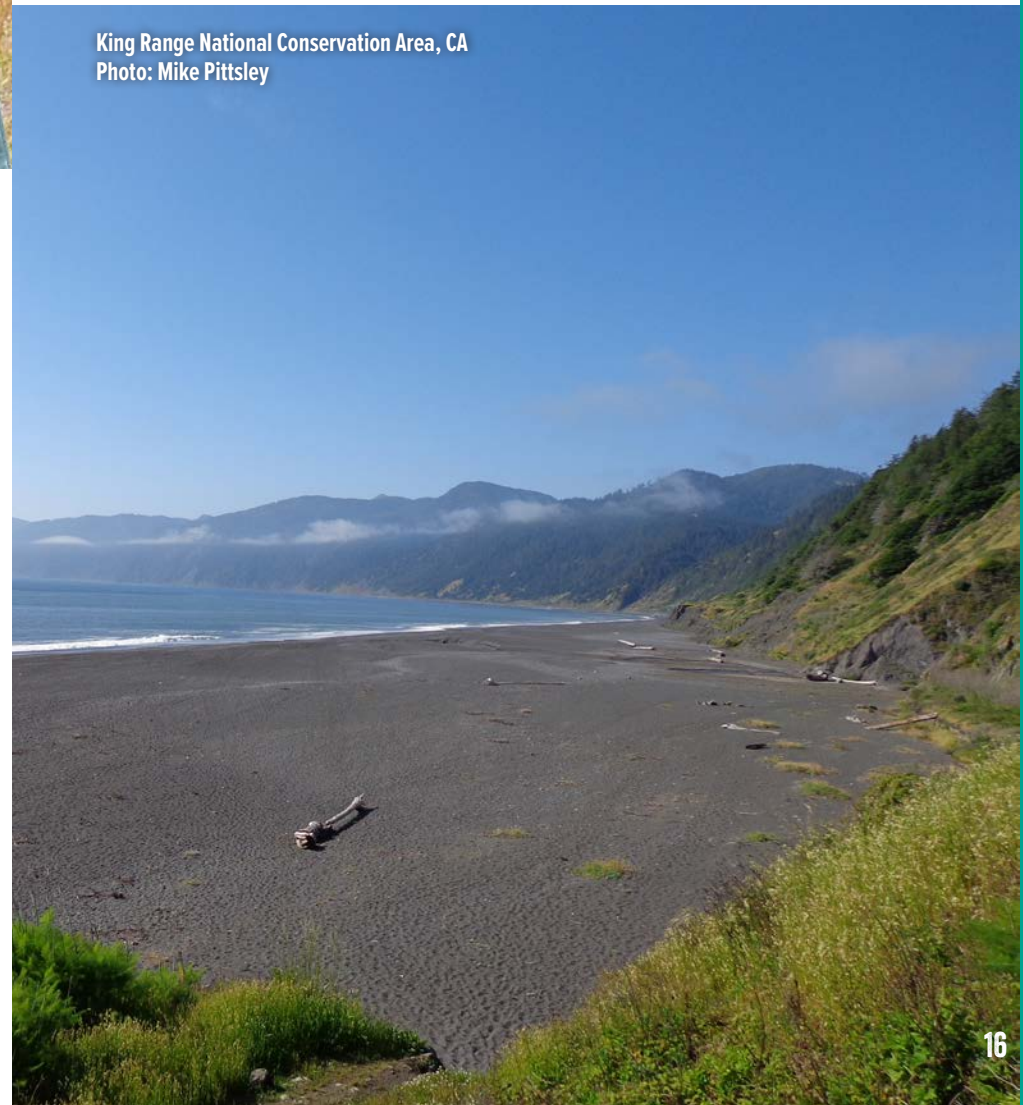
PROJECT: Join us on the adventure of a lifetime as we hike and camp along the Lost Coast Trail! Volunteers will help with trail maintenance, naturalizing driftwood structures, cleaning marine debris and maintaining wilderness campsites in the King Range Wilderness. There will be plenty of time to explore and experience this beautiful and rugged coastline!

Backpacking 5 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day)

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: A spectacular meeting of land and sea is certainly the dominant feature of King Range National Conservation Area (NCA). Mountains seem to thrust straight out of the surf; a precipitous rise rarely surpassed on the continental U.S. coastline. King Peak, the highest point at 4,088', is only three miles from the ocean. The King Range NCA covers 68,000 acres of public lands and extends along 35 miles of coastline between the mouth of the Mattole River and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Here the landscape was too rugged for highway building, forcing State Highway 1 and U.S. 101 inland. The remote region is known as California's Lost Coast, and is only accessed by a few back roads. The recreation opportunities here are as diverse as the landscape. Volunteers will have the opportunity to hike and explore the Avenue of the Giants!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Arcata-Eureka Airport

King Range National Conservation Area, CA
Photo: Mike Pittsley



Klamath National Forest

6/25/2017 - 7/1/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will work to finish opening the Halfmoon trail into the Bridge Creek trail by using crosscut saws to clear trees that have fallen onto the trail tread. Some tread and brushing may be done but this work will primarily be tree clearing. By opening Halfmoon trail, we make it easier for work crews and the public to access a greater network of trails in the Klamath National Forest.

Backpacking 5 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day)

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Volunteers will be camping and working in the Marble Mountains Wilderness of the Klamath National Forest. The Marble Mountains are home to an abundance of wildlife and wildflower varieties as well as rare conifers such as the Brewer's Spruce. The Roosevelt Elk and many deer roam in herds in this remote area of wilderness and bear sightings are common. Opportunities exist for fishing, swimming and day hiking to nearby lakes such as Pleasant, Monument or Deadman. Volunteers can also hike to nearby ridges to view Mt. Shasta and the Marble Rim. Give back in the majesty of the Marble Mountains!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Arcata-Eureka Airport

Los Padres National Forest

3/19/2017 - 3/25/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will use crosscut saws, loppers, rock bars and tread tools to perform routine trail maintenance on the Piedra Blanca trail. Downed trees need to be removed from the trail tread and water crossings need to be improved for the safety of trail users. Volunteers will clean water bars and use rock bars to move large rocks from creek crossings.

Backpacking 3 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day)

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Los Padres National Forest affords beautiful mountain vistas, views of the Sespe Creek Wild and Scenic River, and views of large, white sandstone formations. Volunteers will pass through chaparral and jumbo rock formations. The longer you gaze at them, the more they assume the shape of your imagination. The Gene Marshall Piedra Blanca National Recreation Trail is located within the Sespe Wilderness, which is home to the endangered California Condor. There are numerous trails to explore in the vicinity of the Ojai Ranger District. Volunteers will be treated to a day exploring Santa Cruz Island. This will include boat fare to Santa Cruz Island. During this time, it is expected that volunteers will be able to view the Grey Whale migration from the boat as whales and calves move northward for the season. After this day trip, volunteers will return to Piedra Blanca to camp at the trailhead and complete trail work from there for the remainder of the trip.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Bob Hope Airport

Stanislaus National Forest

5/7/2017 - 5/13/2017



PROJECT: In 2013 the catastrophic Rim Fire burned over 257,000 acres of the Forest, including over 20 miles of hiking trails. To repair the damage, we need to plant over 7.5 million trees. We are in the third year of the recovery process and need help with trail reconstruction including replacing features like water bars, steps, and in many cases re-benching the trails. Erosion, rock slides, noxious weeds, and downed trees are impacting the integrity and use of the trails and need to be removed or utilized in the repair work. We will spend days conducting trail repairs, preparing the land for planting trees and, if water flow and levels cooperate, spend one day rafting down either the class IV+ Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River or the lazy Merced Wild & Scenic River in Yosemite Valley. **Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Located between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada, the Stanislaus National Forest is a cherished and accessible overnight destination. The Forest offers a full range of year-round recreation opportunities. Three primary trans-Sierra routes traverse the forest, offering great views through a range of life zones. A network of forest roads and trails encourages discovery of nature and history. Visitors enjoy a year-round variety of activities including watching wildlife, hiking, fishing, and camping. The community of Groveland is the northern entrance to Yosemite National Park. Experience the beauty of Stanislaus National Forest through giving back!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Sacramento International Airport



Stanislaus National Forest, CA
Photo: Saveria Tilden

FLORIDA

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge

4/16/2017 - 4/22/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will expand the current 1-mile trail system in Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. Trail construction will include tree cutting, invasive species pulling, digging, posting signs, and laying woodchips. Not only are the Salt Marsh Trails used for daily visitors, but the staff and Friends of Crystal River NWR hold educational field trips for the local school district here so expanded access to more trail will be beneficial for many in the community. Birds, insects, frogs, turtles, otters, crustaceans, and fish make the Salt Marsh Trails a diverse, educational experience for all. **Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The Chassahowitzka Salt Marsh Trails are located in Old Homosassa, Florida. Hydric hammock (forested wetland) habitat spreads far and wide and leads to the edge of the salt marsh. The trails are set back behind a small, centralized area of civilization, but far enough away that traffic is not an issue. Local fish markets are abundant and full of fresh catch right out of the Gulf of Mexico and nearby rivers. Nearby attractions include Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Weeki Wachee State Park (home of the mermaids!), kayaking, fishing, restaurants on the water, and boat tours. We aren't called the Nature Coast for nothing! The crystal clear spring waters of the Weeki Wachee and Chassahowitzka Rivers are available for exploring. Snorkeling is a popular activity in the springs. You may even see a manatee or two!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Tampa International Airport

Gulf Islands National Seashore

2/26/2017 - 3/4/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will spend the week performing trail maintenance and repair of trail systems at Fort Pickens and Naval Live Oaks Areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Give back in paradise! **Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Gulf Islands National Seashore protects an unparalleled landscape that provides important habitat for numerous rare and endangered species like the manatee, American crocodile, and the elusive Florida panther. Millions of visitors are drawn to the islands in the northern Gulf of Mexico for the white sandy beaches, the aquamarine waters, a boat ride, a camping spot, a tour of an old fort, or a place to fish. Volunteers have the opportunity to work during the day to be rewarded with sugar white beaches and a beautiful sunset on a nightly basis. Volunteers can look forward to a guided tour of Fort Pickens during their free time.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Pensacola International Airport



Black Rock Mountain State Park, GA
Photo: Libby Wile

GEORGIA

Black Rock Mountain State Park

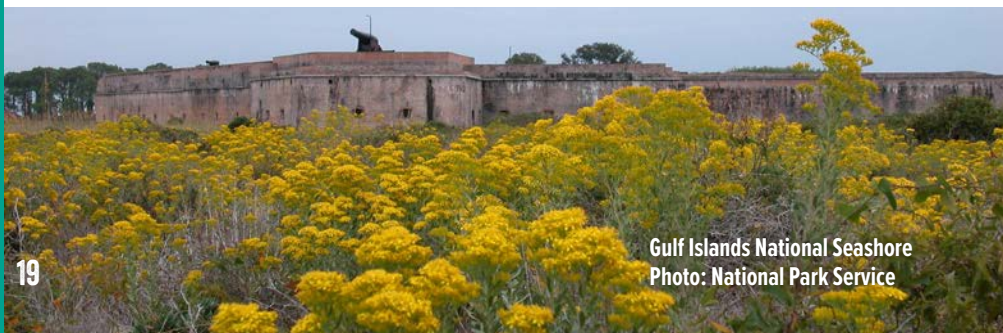
3/5/2017 - 3/11/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will work primarily on the Tennessee Rock Trail, the highest trail in the GA State Park system. Volunteers will install timber steps in steeper sections as well as water bars on longer slopes. The crew will also trim vegetation along the trail and around look off points. Other tasks include repairs at trail junctions and erosion control along the trail. **Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Volunteers have the opportunity to work at the highest state park in Georgia! Black Rock Mountain is located in NE Georgia and boasts the best views in the area. With 80 mile vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountain Range, Black Rock Mountain State Park has something for everyone. The park has a total of 12 miles of trails and a lake with year round Trout fishing. Black Rock Mountain is located 3 miles north of Clayton GA, which offers great opportunities for dining and shopping. Black Rock Mountain is also 20 miles from Tallulah Gorge State Park and 15 Miles from the Chattooga River. Other hidden gems in the area include the Tiger drive-in, Goats on a Roof, hiking the Appalachian Trail and Rabun Bald, and fly fishing!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport



Gulf Islands National Seashore
Photo: National Park Service

GEORGIA

Kolomoki Mounds State Park

11/5/2017 - 11/11/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will spend the week performing trail maintenance on the Spruce Pine, White Oak, and Trillium Trails. There are several bridges that need to be repaired, the trails all need to be reblazed, and there are downed trees that need to be removed. Spruce Pine Trail is a 2.5 mile trail with views of the two lakes in the park. White Oak Trail is a 1.5 mile trail which meanders through a canopy of trees dripping with spanish moss. Trillium Trail is a 1.25 mile trail that connects the amphitheater, group shelters and pioneer camping sites to views of Lake Kolomoki.

Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Kolomoki Mounds State Park is the oldest and largest Woodland Indian site in the southeastern United States, occupied by American Indians from 350 to 750 A.D. Located in southwest rural Georgia, the site has eight Native American mounds dating back to the Woodland Era. Georgia's oldest great temple mound, standing 57' high, dominates two smaller burial mounds and several ceremonial mounds. Kolomoki Mounds is also known for its wide range of outdoor activities. Two lakes provide fishing and boating, and a campground is nestled under hardwoods and pines. History and hiking await you at Kolomoki Mounds State Park!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Sweetwater Creek State Park

3/12/2017 - 3/18/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will spend the week working on the Red and White Trails in the park. The Red Trail is the most frequently used trail in the park because it's the shortest trail to the park's mill ruins and best showcases the beauty of the creek valley. The White Trail is a 5.2 mile loop that passes through some of the most remote areas of the park. This trail was specifically designed to highlight the park's wildlife and plant communities. Volunteers will perform trail maintenance including trimming limbs, packing dirt in some of the more technical areas of the trail affected by erosion, and replacing steps that have become hazards throughout the trail systems.

Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Sweetwater Creek State Park is a peaceful tract of wilderness only minutes from downtown Atlanta. Trails wind through fields and forest, showcasing ferns, magnolias, wild azaleas and hardwoods. The 215-acre George Sparks Reservoir is popular for fishing and provides a pretty setting for feeding ducks and picnicking. Volunteers are welcome to utilize any of the park amenities on their off day, free of charge, as well as various other hiking trails that have great views of the Atlanta skyline. Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to stay in the park's cozy yurts!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

ILLINOIS

Shawnee National Forest, Touch of Nature Center

10/15/2017 - 10/21/2017

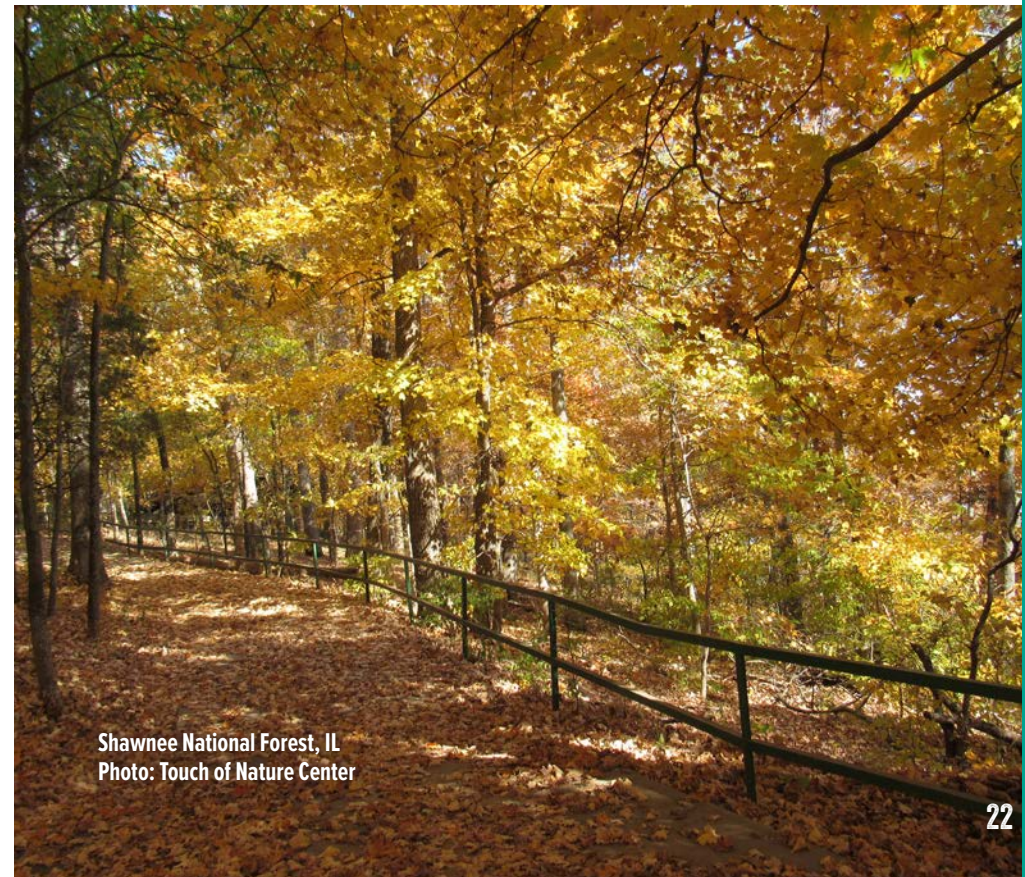


PROJECT: The recently started trails initiative is rebuilding a new system of trails lost over the years to the forest. The initiative has become an environmental education program of its own through the integration of educational components during work sessions. The trail initiative is an integral part of the renewal of the environmental center as a regional resource for connecting people to the land and promoting hiking and paddling for recreation and sustainable, healthy living. Work will include clearing trails of organic materials using Pulaskis, McLeods, shovels, and rakes. Volunteers will work on creating a back-slope, tread, and an out-slope.

Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Southern Illinois Universities' Touch of Nature Environmental Center sits on 3,100 acres of the unglaciated Shawnee Hills natural division of the Shawnee National Forest. The Eastern border of the facility is Little Grassy Lake, one of three lakes on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. It shares its Southern and Western borders with Giant City State Park and Crab Orchard Wilderness Area which the trans-state River to River Trail traverses. A National Environmental Education Landmark (designated by NPS) and outdoor laboratory for the university "T.O.N.E.C." has been serving a broad range of populations as a leader in the fields of environmental, therapeutic, outdoor, adventure, and challenge experiential education for 65 years. Southern Illinois is known for its lush hills, diverse ecosystems, sandstone cliffs and numerous lakes. Recreation opportunities include but are not limited to: hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, fishing, and camping.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Williamson County Regional Airport



Shawnee National Forest, IL
Photo: Touch of Nature Center

INDIANA

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

4/2/2017 – 4/8/2017



PROJECT: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is home to over 45 miles of hiking trails, 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, over 350 species of birds, and over 1,500 plant species. Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to assist with the end of Maple Sugar Time, learning and assisting in the collection of maple syrup. Volunteers are also needed to protect our immaculate sand dunes by mitigating social trails in closed areas. Volunteers will also remove invasive plant species which are prevalent along disturbed areas such as established hiking trails. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan and has much to offer. Whether you enjoy scouting for rare species of birds or flying kites on the sandy beach, the national lakeshore's 15,000 acres will continually enchant you. Hikers will enjoy 45 miles of trails over rugged dunes, mysterious wetlands, sunny prairies, meandering rivers, and peaceful forests. In addition, Chicago is only an hour train ride from the park's own station. Join us for this unique volunteer opportunity on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from O'Hare International Airport

KENTUCKY

General Butler State Resort Park

5/7/2017 - 5/13/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will spend the week performing vital maintenance projects on the park's 9 miles of trails. Tasks will include: installing signage and directional markers, weed eating, building foot bridges, correcting slope issues, improving trail surfaces, distributing surface gravel, and cutting and clearing fallen trees. As with many agencies, staffing is the biggest hurdle towards accomplishing physical labor tasks and volunteers truly make a difference! **Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: General Butler SRP is located in Carrollton, Kentucky- halfway between Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. The park sits on 791 acres, where visitors take part in hiking, swimming, golfing, and camping. The essence of southern charm- the park features a full-scaled resort/restaurant, camping, golf course, and other recreational amenities. Volunteers will be staying in Butler Lodge, and having breakfast & dinner at the park's restaurant called Two Rivers. Also, Recreation will provide evening activities as a thank you for your generous gift of volunteering. Transportation will be provided to/from the work sites. If you want the "Cadillac" of service trips, then you need to pick this trip!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Louisville International Airport

MAINE

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

9/17/2017 - 9/23/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will be maintaining the surveyed boundary lines of the corridor of National Park Service lands the Appalachian Trail traverses. Using survey maps and hand-held compasses, the crew will maintain the boundaries of NPS lands immersed in early fall foliage. Work involves bushwhacking along the boundary and using hand-held saws and loppers to clear a line of site between survey markers as well as repainting yellow blazes and replacing US Boundary signs. A day's work involves hiking on the trail to the corridor near the work site, bushwhacking to the boundary line, working along the boundary line and then bushwhacking and hiking back – we don't stay in the same place long! **Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Volunteers will be camping and working in and around Gulf Hugas, a scenic slate gorge with many waterfalls in the remote final section of the Appalachian Trail known as the "hundred mile wilderness." Opportunities for hiking scenic AT side trails or the AT itself abound. Greenville, Maine and Moosehead Lake are an hour to the west of camp, where flatwater paddling and canoe and kayak rentals are available as well as shops and restaurants. If you'd like to spend a week in the remote Maine woods, following moose trails and exploring the Appalachian Trail, this is the trip for you!

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Bangor International Airport

MINNESOTA

Boundary Waters

Canoe Area Wilderness

5/17/2017 - 5/24/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will help maintain sections of the "Kek" that are in dire need of basic maintenance work because of summer '16 storms. This entails using hand tools to remove blowdowns and clear brush from the trail corridor. We will be working on the westernmost 15 miles of the "Kek" within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. **Paddling 4 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 10 Miles Per Day)**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is a stunningly beautiful wilderness area located in the northeastern tip of Minnesota. It is a unique landscape that is made up of equal parts water (lakes) and land (covered by boreal forest). The western most portion of the Kekekabic Trail lies in a part of the BWCAW that was not damaged by the historic 1999 storm but was damaged by storms in 2016. The crew will be working between the Wilderness Boundary and Thomas Pond. This section features loop trails, many lakes, and a mix of pine, spruce/fir, and hardwood forests. Canoeing on a BWCAW lake, fishing, or hiking may be enjoyed right from the group campsite. Adventure and rewarding work await you in Minnesota!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Duluth International Airport

Frontenac State Park

9/24/2017 - 9/30/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will perform multiple trail maintenance tasks in Frontenac State Park. The first task is stair replacement; removing rotten wooden stairs, building replacement stairs, post digging and cutting into hill-side for footings, and repairing and replacing railings along the stairs. The second task is trail alignment and repair which includes leveling the dirt trail along the bluff top portion of the trail, removing debris clogging drainage under small platform bridges, removing and replacing rotten boards on steps, bridges and railings, sanding and painting boards on overlooks, and resetting and repairing erosion prevention timbers along steep edges of trails.

Day Hiking Up to 1 Mile Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Frontenac State Park encompasses 2,230 beautiful acres that include the 450-foot bluff overlooking Lake Pepin, a widening of the Mississippi. Called Point-No-Point, the three-mile-long bluff creates an optical illusion to boaters traveling down river. From a distance, it appears to be a point jutting out into the water, but the illusion disappears as boaters approach it. This bluff, which became a state park in 1953, nearly 20 years after its designation was proposed, is a popular birding and recreation site. Here you'll find a diverse wildlife habitat of forests, open meadows, old fields, prairies, and bottomland hardwood marshes. The shaded bluff provides spectacular color in the fall. Frontenac State Park is close to Red Wing, and Lake City, Minnesota. The area's panoramic beauty and elevated vistas have made this area a popular area for hikers.

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport

Itasca State Park

9/10/2017 - 9/16/2017



PROJECT: The crew will assist the Laurentian Lakes Chapter with basic trail maintenance on remote sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail within the Itasca State Park area. This will consist of using hand tools (loppers, folding saws, etc.) to cut back brush growing within the 4' trail corridor. Volunteers will be rewarded for their efforts, as much of the work will occur under a canopy of old-growth pines and along beautiful, backcountry lakes. **Day Hiking Up to 8 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Itasca State Park is a 32,000 acre park in northwestern Minnesota that is famous for containing the Headwaters of the Mississippi River (Lake Itasca) but also for preserving old growth pine and hardwood forests. The landscape contains forested rolling hills interspersed with beautiful undeveloped lakes and small kettle wetlands. Itasca sits in the middle of a 180-mile contiguous section of the North Country Trail. Nearby recreational opportunities include biking on paved bike trails, canoeing, birding, fishing, and visiting the Headwaters and nearby historic sites in Itasca State Park.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Hector International Airport

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

9/17/2017 - 9/23/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will help with trail maintenance on the refuge. This may occur on multiple trails throughout the refuge and entails clearing trails of debris, removing/cutting brush and vegetation growing over trails, and re-graveling trail surfaces. Volunteers will be able to work in a variety of habitats located on the refuge including in wild spaces in an urban environment. **Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is part of a corridor of land and water stretching nearly 70 miles along the Minnesota River, from Bloomington to Henderson, Minnesota. Comprised of more than 14,000 acres, the refuge has multiple units, offering a variety of free outdoor recreational experiences. The refuge ranges from urban to rural providing a unique opportunity to enjoy wildlife related recreation in the shadows of skyscrapers and grain elevators. The refuge provides valuable habitat for a diversity of waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish, and resident wildlife. It's a place where coyotes, bald eagles, prothonotary warblers, and trout live next door to more than three million people!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport



Minnesota Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
Photo: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area

8/20/2017 - 8/26/2017



PROJECT: Based out of the Box Canyon Guard Station, an old ranger cabin at the end of the Boulder River road, volunteers will perform a wide variety of trailwork in the vicinity of the cabin- improving and widening existing trail, oxeye daisy treatment, clearing trees, and installing drainage structures. The crew will use a variety of trail tools, including Pulaskis, cross-cut saws, rakes, and loppers. Each morning the crew will hike out from the cabin at Box Canyon to tackle much-needed trail maintenance work. Volunteers will work alongside a Forest Service trail crew member who serves as the technical consultant for the project. **Day Hiking Up to 8 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: When you arrive at the Box Canyon Ranger cabin, you are smack dab in the center of one of the largest Wilderness areas in the Lower 48. The Boulder River is also the bisecting line between the Absaroka Range that runs north out of Yellowstone Park, and the high Beartooth Range to the east—namesakes of the Wilderness. The A-B Wilderness is known for its ruggedness, numerous lakes, broad plateaus above treeline, and solitude. Trip leaders are trained as Wilderness First Responders, and take your safety, staying fed and happy, and your enjoyment of the work very seriously. Not so far from Yellowstone National Park, come see why the Absaroka-Beartooths are a much quieter, more pristine, and far more ruggedly handsome alternative, that need your tender loving care!

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport

**Bob Marshall Wilderness Area,
Flathead National Forest**

8/5/2017 - 8/12/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will be clearing 5 miles of trail up Red Plume Mountain which gains 3,000' from camp to summit. This project takes place in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, so only primitive tools are allowed including crosscut saws, hand saws, axes, and Pulaskis to get the job done. All the hard work will be rewarded with panoramic views of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, hearty meals around camp, and world class trout fishing. Don't forget your pole. Challenge yourself, meet like minded Wilderness lovers and learn new skills this summer!

Backpacking 12 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day)

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Considered by many to be the "crown jewel" of the wilderness preservation system, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is comprised of over 1.5 million acres of untrammeled, wild vastness that stretches from Glacier National Park in the north, to Rogers Pass to the south in the northern Rockies of Montana. Straddling the continental divide, the "Bob" as it's known locally, is comprised of towering limestone reefs, range after range of majestic mountains, lush forests, broad basins and valleys, and two wild and scenic designated rivers. It also contains some of the best wildlife habitat in the lower 48 for elk, deer, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, black bear, and the threatened grizzly bear. Volunteers will be able to relax by the river with a book, hike to the remote Schafer Meadows ranger station, or fish on a day off from trail work.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Glacier Park International Airport

Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, MT
Photo: Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation





Custer Gallatin National Forest, MT
Photo: Mike Pittsley

MONTANA

Custer Gallatin National Forest

7/9/2017 - 7/15/2017



PROJECT: This project consists of general trail clearing and maintenance on trails in the Clark's Fork River drainage and the Beartooth Plateau on the Custer Gallatin National Forest in the Cooke City area. Trail clearing and maintenance includes clearing downed trees across trails, cleaning of water bars, and removing trailside brush using crosscut saws, axes, shovels, Pulaski's, and loppers. Maintenance may also include some work repairing or installing new trail structures such as turnpikes or puncheons. Work will consist of day trips that involve hiking 6 to 10 miles per day while conducting trail work in the picturesque Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness.

Day Hiking Up to 10 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Cooke City is a small mountain community located near the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park. It is a primary portal to the Beartooth Plateau portion of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Area that sports spectacular scenery, wildlife, fishing and outdoor recreation. There is also easy access to site seeing and wildlife watching within Yellowstone National Park. The area is rich in history, and offers outdoor enthusiasts an array of adventures from weeklong backpack trips to shorter day hikes to one of over 600 high alpine lakes. Elevation in the area ranges from 7,500' to 11,000'. Visitors will have the opportunity to drive the Beartooth Scenic Highway to Red Lodge Montana and hike and explore in Yellowstone National Park!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport

NEW MEXICO

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument

4/23/2017 - 4/29/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will be working on the Monument's National Recreation Trail called the Slot Canyon and Cave Loop. Maintenance is required to preserve the geological features unique to the Monument. Activities will include the installation of sand bars, erosion control structures, steps, installing and removing wire fencing, and other trail maintenance needs. This trail hosts over 80 learning institutions yearly and is in need of repair, largely in part to the naturally erosive nature of soils which make up North America's only geological formations of this type. The Monument is also in the planning phase of designating a new 9 mile primitive hiking and equestrian trail. Volunteers may help clear and improve this trail by trail construction and vegetation removal. **Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument (KKTR) is a geological wonder known for its beautiful geological formations called hoodoos. Since the Monument's designation in 2001, the management and preservation of KKTR has allowed the public to access one of BLM New Mexico's premiere destinations. Santa Fe and Albuquerque are both within driving distance of the Monument, offering great opportunities to explore. Volunteers have many options to choose from for their free time including hiking and fishing with stunning views at Cochiti Lake, which is adjacent to the Monument. Volunteers will also receive a guided visit to Old Town in Albuquerque, a historic attraction in the city with craft stores, local food, and gift shops.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Albuquerque International Airport



Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, NM
Photo: Jackie Leyba



Adirondack Park, NY
Photo: Champlain Area Trails

NEW YORK

Adirondack Park

4/23/2017 - 4/29/2017

10/1/2017 - 10/7/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will spend the week performing various trail clearing tasks such as marking trails, cutting back and clearing debris, and inspecting and making minor repairs to bridges and boardwalks. Champlain Area Trails creates hiking trails that link our communities, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality. The trails are very popular and used daily by a local elementary school, local residents and visitors to the area. **Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Adirondack Park is the largest protected forest preserve in the United States and boasts thousands of lakes, and miles of streams. It is one of the most beautiful areas in the country with the slogan of “forever wild.” Champlain Area Trail’s (CATS) trails are located mostly in the “Champlain Valley” on the picturesque 150-mile long Lake Champlain. Many of the trails offer breathtaking views of the Lake, the Green Mountains in Vermont, and the Adirondack Mountains of New York. It is a year-round recreational mecca with trails, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, shopping (Lake Placid, the site of the 1980 Olympics is only 45 minutes away), many museums, waterfalls, and other attractions. With spring and fall trips, Adirondack Park offers picturesque volunteer opportunities in the mountains!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Burlington International Airport

OREGON

Eagle Cap Wilderness, Wallowa–Whitman National Forest

8/5/2017 - 8/13/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will depart the Bowman Trailhead along the Lostine Wild and Scenic River and backpack into Brownie Basin. Pack stock will carry all food and group gear, giving us time for a leisurely 4 mile hike into base camp. Work will include restoration of old trails (building erosion control structures, filling ruts, transplanting vegetation, installing signing), rehabilitating camp sites, and trail maintenance (building check dams, drain dips, water bars, brushing, and possible light log-out). **Backpacking 4 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 1 Mile Per Day)**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The largest wilderness area in the state, The Eagle Cap encompasses over 350,000 acres of breathtaking mountain scenery. You’ll find 52 glacial lakes, 4 Wild rivers, and over 500 miles of trail in this rugged area. Our base camp for the week is located just below tree line, affording great views of creek-side meadows framed by granite slopes. Elk, deer and bighorn sheep are common in this part of the wilderness. If we’re lucky, we may hear the wolves howl! With six alpine lakes less than 4 miles from our camp, we’ll have ample opportunities to capture great photos, do a little fishing, or just spend some relaxing hours taking in the scenery. If you aren’t worn out from the work, you might be adventurous enough for a 10 mile loop that takes in 5 lakes on our free day!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

4/2/2017 - 4/8/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will perform new trail construction and maintenance on the John Muir Trail. Volunteers will use hand tools including hand held trimmers, shovels, mattocks, and rakes to perform new trail construction and maintenance to the existing trail. There are only 10 miles of trail that remain to be built to complete the entire John Muir Trail in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Be an integral part of this lasting legacy! **Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Encompassing 125,000 acres of the Cumberland Plateau, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area protects the free-flowing Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The park offers almost 400 miles of hiking and multi-use trails. The area is home to several arches, beautiful overlooks, wildflowers, and geological wonders. April is the beginning of wildflower season and the park has its share of flowering plants and shrubs. The park is home to the Twin Arches, considered to be the largest arches east of the Mississippi. Volunteers will have the opportunity to fish, hike, and bike throughout the area during free time.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from McGhee Tyson Airport

Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail

5/7/2017 - 5/13/2017



PROJECT: The Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail (CTSST) is a backcountry hiking trail that extends from a northern terminus at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park across eleven Tennessee counties along the Cumberland Plateau, to a southern terminus at Signal Point, part of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Signal Mountain, Tennessee. Of 322+ planned miles of trail, over 176 miles are currently open for public use. On this trip, volunteers will build trail that will join the Head of Sequatchie Resource Management Area with Black and Brady Mountain segments. Specific tasks include using various hand tools to clear brush, dig trail tread, construct rock steps, and install trail markers. The team will also create drainage features, prepare bridge sites, and construct other elements of sustainable trail design. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail State Park, a Tennessee scenic hiking trail, became Tennessee's 53rd state park in 1998. It is Tennessee's first linear park, cutting through 11 Tennessee counties. The Head of Sequatchie is an idyllic, remote historic valley setting, full of wildflowers, birds, insects and water features. Volunteers will be treated to a one-of-a-kind guided hike experience which will feature one of the Cumberland Trail's most spectacular views, the overlook at Black Mountain. During free time, volunteers can explore surrounding state parks or visit Knoxville or Chattanooga! This is a rare opportunity to fully enjoy one of the hidden treasures of the Cumberland Trail!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport

Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail

9/17/2017 - 9/23/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will be building trail in moderate to steep terrain to extend the footpath of the Crab Orchard segment of the Cumberland Trail in eastern Tennessee. When complete, the trail will connect three national parks, three Tennessee state parks, five state natural areas, multiple wildlife management areas, and a Tennessee state forest. The Cumberland Trail will be Tennessee's contribution to the Great Eastern Trail, which will cross nine states for 1,800 miles, extending from Alabama to New York. Volunteers will use hand tools to prepare trail tread, clear brush and roots, and construct steps and stream crossings. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The Cumberland Trail approximately parallels the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau, leading hikers along ridges with overlooks, across streams and along bluff lines following a generally southwest-to-northeast route. The Plateau boasts a rich diversity of flowering plants, ferns, and wildlife habitat. A hike on the Black Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail just a few miles south of our work site will lead hikers to views of Grassy Cove, a designated National Natural Landmark, and to close-up observation of the unique geology that forms the Plateau. Volunteers will have the chance to tour the historic Cumberland Homesteads, a project that produced architecture incorporating native rock and lumber to provide homes for farming families following the Great Depression. Fall on the Plateau is a perfect setting for those who love the outdoors!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from McGhee Tyson Airport

Natchez Trace State Park

3/12/2017 - 3/18/2017



PROJECT: Existing parts of the 40 mile Red Leaves Backpacking Trail have deteriorated in the 48,000 acre Natchez Trace State Park and Forest, the largest state park in Tennessee. A new sustainable trail will be built to replace one of the worst sections. The new trail will be laid out and cleared prior to the 2017 volunteer vacation. Volunteers have the exciting opportunity to learn about sustainable trail construction and build the new trail using various trail building tools including Pulaskis and Mcleods. **Day Hiking Up to 1 Mile Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Natchez Trace State Park and Forest contains 48,000 heavily forested acres of hardwood and pine, with many lakes and abundant wildlife including turkey, deer, squirrels and many bird species. We will be working near the picturesque Cub Creek Lake, a 58 acre lake built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in 1938. The park has 13.5 miles of hiking trails, ranging from a one-half mile up to 4.5 miles, and a 40 mile overnight trail (where volunteers will be working). The trails wind through the forest and fields and along the lakeshores and streams of Natchez Park.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Nashville International Airport

TEXAS

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

3/5/2017 - 3/11/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will work on two trails in the refuge to allow safer and sustainable access by the public. Post Oak Creek Trail has suffered extensive flood damage and is currently closed to the public. The project will require moving flood debris such as logs and rocks, resurfacing the trail surface, recovering the trail path by digging it out through dense shrubs and over uneven surfaces, treating for fire ants, and cutting back trees. Rimrock Trail has been damaged as a result of increased foot traffic. Sections of this 2.2 mile trail need to be redirected, recut, and cleared to allow safe passage. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Texas's famed hill country is a pastoral, rumpled terrain marked by wooded canyons, cut by spring-fed rivers. Best of all, it's quirky! One minute you'll see a vista of bluebonnets and the next a sign advertising "Emu Oil, Next Exit". The Hill Country begins just north of Austin, continues south to San Antonio, and sweeps west some 200 miles before the land begins to flatten out. Follow a route linking state and U.S. secondary highways, which lead to a series of colorful towns fit for dawdling. Popular destinations are Enchanted Rock State Park, Comal and Guadalupe Rivers, Inks Lake State Park, Longhorn Cavern, antique shopping in Fredricksburg and many others. Austin, TX is less than an hour away if you are looking for funky charm! There is no shortage of things to do in and around the hill country, your only worry will be not having enough time to do everything.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge

10/15/2017 - 10/21/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will be working on trail maintenance on the Knobby Knees and Great Egret Ridge Trails. Tasks include removing fallen vegetation and limbs from the trail and trimming vegetation that could scratch or pose other inconveniences to hikers. Additional tasks include starting construction on an additional 3 miles of new trail. Trail building consists of building a trail 2-5' wide while looking for features to highlight and the best footing for the trail. Limb and vegetation removal will be the main focus. **Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Everything is bigger and better in Texas! Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge is located in the floodplain of Liberty County in Southeast Texas. The habitat is bottomland hardwood and the area hosts bayous, oxbow lakes, privet swamps, and cypress-tupelo swamps. Houston, TX is located 45 minutes away. Galveston is one hour away and has a beach as well as Moody Gardens, an aquarium, and zoo. Big Thicket National Preserve, Sam Houston National Forest, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, and Lake Livingston State Park are all within a one-hour drive from the lodging site. Transportation will be provided to a free time activity of the group's choosing.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from George Bush Intercontinental Airport



Manti-La Sal National Forest, UT
Photo: Margie Cohen

UTAH

Manti-La Sal National Forest

6/4/2017 - 6/10/2017



PROJECT: The 10-mile Fish Creek National Recreation Trail provides hiking, angler, and equestrian opportunities between Scofield Reservoir and Skyline Drive (8000'-9000' elevation) in central Utah. It passes through prime elk habitat and is located in open sage/grass country and parallels the creek for its entire length. This project is scheduled for early summer before temperatures rise, as winter snowmelt flows peak, and spring flowers bloom. Work will include drainage maintenance, tread repair, and vegetation pruning/lopping to improve the trail and user experience. Volunteers will set up base camp at the lower trailhead west of Scofield Reservoir and work their way progressively up the trail, day-packing in each day and returning to base camp each night. The goal will be to maintain the lower three miles of trail.

Day Hiking Up to 5 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Manti-La Sal National Forest's deep sandstone canyons, mountaintops, meadows, lakes, and streams create a diverse landscape. From the Abajos and La Sals in southeastern Utah to the Wasatch Plateau and Sanpitch mountains hundreds of miles away in central Utah, the Forest is a welcome retreat. Volunteers will have the opportunity to experience the forest while working and during free time. Activities include taking in the scenery while fishing and hiking. Visitors can also tour the National Scenic Byway or visit the Scofield Cemetery.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Salt Lake City International Airport

VERMONT

Cross Vermont Trail, Groton State Forest

7/30/2017 - 8/5/2017



PROJECT: Help build the Cross Vermont Trail - a new four season multi-use path spanning the width of Vermont. We are “connecting communities, their schools and the natural areas in between.” The crew will build small bridges, drainage ditches, stone structures, and surface parts of the trail with gravel to make it universally accessible. Contribute to the foundation of a sustainable trail that is connecting communities across the entire state! **Day Hiking Up to 1 Mile Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Northern Vermont is a picture postcard landscape of small villages side by side with rolling pastures, surrounded by forested expanses of hills, bogs, and glacial lakes. We will work in and around the 25,000 acre Groton State Forest. We will camp near a pond in a state park that provides running water and hot showers. Local attractions range from hiking, paddling, swimming and berry picking in the forest to visiting fairs and restaurants, and Ben and Jerry’s ice cream factory, in the small but culturally vibrant towns nearby.

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Burlington International Airport

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Virgin Islands National Park

11/18/2017 - 11/25/2017

11/25/2017 - 12/2/2017



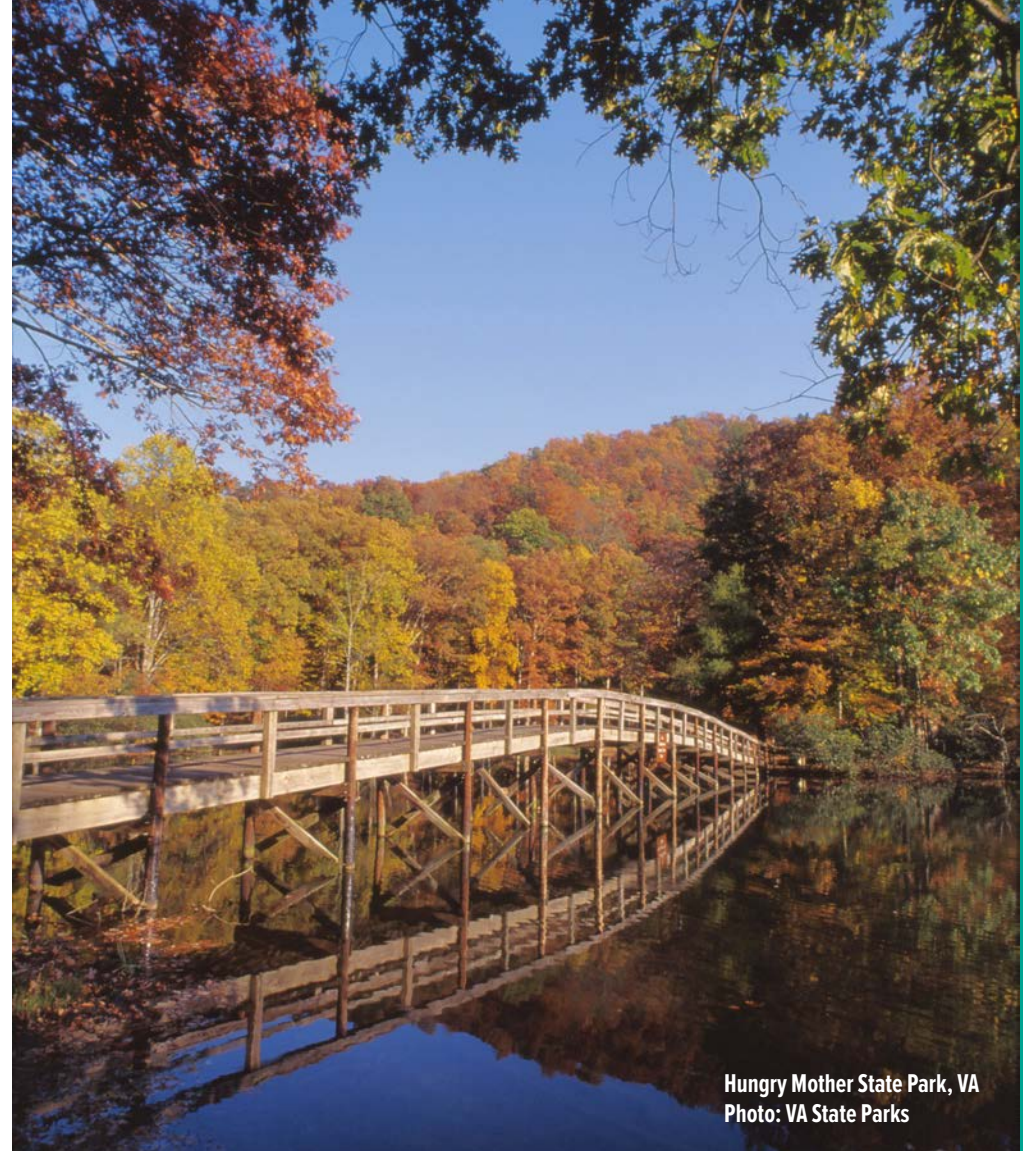
PROJECT: Volunteers will be working on hiking trails as well as historical ruin maintenance and repairs within Virgin Islands National Park. Volunteers will work to maintain and stabilize park trails that may have been washed out by summer rains and a season of visitation. Work will entail lots of grub-hoeing with picks and out sloping. Give back in a tropical paradise! **Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: The island of St John is in the northern Caribbean where the waters are beautiful and crystal clear. Volunteers will work under blue skies, and near white sand beaches covered with palm trees. Volunteers will learn about the history of the island and have an opportunity to explore historical ruins. The campground has equipment available for various watersports and afternoons will be free for island exploration, sailing, scuba diving, snorkeling, and shopping.

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Cyril E. King Airport on the island of St. Thomas



U.S. Virgin Islands
Photo: Andrea Ketchmark



Hungry Mother State Park, VA
Photo: VA State Parks

VIRGINIA

Hungry Mother State Park

9/24/2017 - 9/30/2017



PROJECT: As trails within Hungry Mother State Park see increased usage, it’s crucial to ensure trails are sustainable to meet this increased demand. Volunteers will install rock armoring in areas that currently have drainage issues, adding knicks and rolling grade dips, clearing the corridor, out-slope and debanking the trail. Volunteers will also address areas of trail that need grooming by raking and removing small rocks, leaves, and leaf litter on the trail tread. **Day Hiking Up to 3 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Long a family favorite known for beautiful woodlands and a placid 108-acre lake in the heart of the mountains, Hungry Mother State Park has a sandy beach, mountain vistas, and over 18 miles of trails traversing the park. The trails are typically natural surface trails approximately 4’ wide. During the free day, volunteers can venture out on a 19 mile bike ride on the Historical Virginia Creeper Trail from Whitetop Mountain to Damascus, VA or canoe in Hungry Mother State Park. Another option is to hike at Grayson Highlands State Park to take in the spectacular mountain views, hike up Twin Pinnacles, and see the wild ponies!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Tri-Cities Regional Airport

VIRGINIA

Kiptopeke State Park

9/17/2017 - 9/23/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will assist Kiptopeke staff with yearly trail maintenance needs including trimming trees and scrubs back from the trail, grading sections of the trail and putting in drainage. These tasks are vital at this time as the park prepares for the busy fall visitor season and annual birding festival. **Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Boasting 1.5 miles of waterfront on the Chesapeake Bay, Kiptopeke State Park sits on the southern tip of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The park is a mixture of open fields, upland maritime forest, reclaimed farmland and beach. The terrain is mostly flat and is the largest migratory stopover for songbirds on the Atlantic Flyway in the fall. The other feature that draws people are the nine WWII concrete ships that sit 300 feet off the beach. The ships were sunk off Kiptopeke in 1948 to act as a breakwater for the ferry ships that were docking. The ships now are home several species of fish, crabs, oysters and other sea creatures. The top of the ships have been claimed by seagulls and brown pelicans. Visit Kiptopeke - a park with rich history and a wide variety of recreational opportunities!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Norfolk International Airport

WASHINGTON

Olympic National Forest

6/11/2017 - 6/17/2017



PROJECT: The primary objectives of the project are to brush and build drainages along the West Fork Humptulips Trail, as the area receives an average of 100 - 140 inches of rain a year. A few puncheons may also need repair after the winter rainy season. We will not know until spring what damage the flood waters will have done to the trail. Backcountry Horseman of Washington has volunteered to pack the crew and supplies needed to the different back country campsites where the crew will be staying. **Backpacking 3 Miles to Basecamp (Day Hiking Up to 1 Miles Per Day)**

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Olympic National Forest encompasses the varied landscape of Washington's Olympic Peninsula from lush rain forests to deep canyons to high mountain ridges to ocean beaches. The West Fork Humptulips drainage is near the Quinault Valley. Area attractions include the Colonel Bob Wilderness and Lake Quinault. The valley is surrounded by steep terrain covered by large trees and the main attraction for horseback riders on the Southwest end of the peninsula. For a free day, volunteers will be treated to a guided hike through the Lake Quinault Lodge. Boats, canoes, and kayaks can also be rented if volunteers want to spend some time on Lake Quinault. The beach is a 1.5 hour drive from the trail head. Olympic National Park and the communities of Pacific Beach and Moclips offer access to beautiful beaches. Join us for the backcountry adventure of a lifetime!

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

San Juan Islands National Monument

6/18/2017 - 6/24/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will perform trail maintenance, noxious weeds eradication and recreation site maintenance. The crew will be transported to and from base camp to the work areas via carpools and or boat with minimal hiking involved. Dependent on the weather, projects may be performed on outer islands. Volunteers will be engaged with a handful of other agency representatives in the SJI and also working outside of BLM lands. It takes an island and we all share when we can!

Day Hiking Up to 4 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Nestled in the heart of the Salish Sea, the San Juan Islands are very old mountain tops shaped by glacial activity about 12,000 years ago, and are often considered the gem of Washington State. The San Juan Islands National Monument encompasses approximately 1000 acres across the Salish Sea and includes over 75 sites of headlands, rocks, and islands. The Pacific Ocean's maritime air moderates the climate year-round and the islands support one of the most varied wildlife populations and variety of habitats in the Northwest. Lopez Island is the most rural of the three major islands, covering 29.5 square miles. The landscape blends woods with rolling farmlands and open spaces with shimmering vistas.

TRAVEL: No airport pickup provided for this trip. The closest airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

WEST VIRGINIA

Monongahela National Forest

9/10/2017 - 9/16/2017



PROJECT: Volunteers will perform tread work along the Lake Sherwood trail, a 3.7 mile trail around a 165 acre scenic lake, to make the trail more accessible to meet accessibility guidelines. Volunteers would also replace a small foot bridge along the .6 mile long Virginia Trail. Volunteers will be rewarded with a scenic view of Lake Moomaw from the top of this trail! If time allows, volunteers will install turnpikes on 3-4 areas of the Upper Meadow Trail, which is close to the campground.

Day Hiking Up to 2 Miles Per Day

AREA & ATTRACTIONS: Monongahela National Forest comprises about a million acres of forest in West Virginia, and attracts 1.3 million visitors each year. A variety of animals make their home here, including black bear, coyote, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, red and gray fox, bobcat, fisher, otter and mink. While staying at Lake Sherwood the staff will offer a cookout one evening and one day off during the week for the volunteers. On the free day, volunteers could stay at Lake Sherwood to hike, fish, swim, or kayak or venture to nearby attractions such as the historic Lewisburg, WV or New River Gorge, an hour away. Experience wild and wonderful West Virginia on this rewarding Volunteer Vacation!

TRAVEL: Airport pickup provided from Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport



Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, MT
Photo: Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

CREW LEADERS WANTED

The success of any trail stewardship program depends on hard working volunteers and their dedicated leaders. If you are interested in taking a more active role during your next Volunteer Vacation and contributing your leadership skills and personality to help fellow crew members, consider being an American Hiking Society Crew Leader.

AHS Crew Leaders act as liaisons between the AHS office, the project host, and the crew; plan and organize the crew's meals and weekly menus; and provide logistical support and social leadership on the ground to volunteers. You do not need to be an expert trail builder to take on the role of Crew Leader, but you do need to have prior outdoor leadership experience, have good communication and organizational skills, and be a flexible team player. Join us in this important endeavor to improve our trails and ensure a memorable experience for all of our volunteers!

Visit bit.ly/CrewLeader2017 for more details.

LEAVE NO TRACE

American Hiking Society is committed to preserving our nation's natural areas through its partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, an organization that promotes responsible outdoor skills and ethics. Below are the seven Leave No Trace principles of outdoor ethics Volunteer Vacation participants are asked to follow:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare**
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- Dispose of Waste Properly**
- Leave What You Find**
- Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- Respect Wildlife**
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

PROUD PARTNER



leave no trace™
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

2017 REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION METHODS

1. Register online: AmericanHiking.org
2. Submit the registration form at the back of this booklet
3. Call (800) 972- 8608 ext. 704

TRIP PRICES

- \$275** American Hiking Society Member, First Trip per Calendar Year
- \$330** Non-Member, First Trip per Calendar Year (Includes 1-year AHS membership)
- \$195** Youth Registration, Under 18 Years of Age (Must be accompanied by legal guardian on trip)
- \$195** Additional Trips per Calendar Year
- \$195** Group Member (4 or More)

*Your registration fee and travel costs are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

1. Food/Meal Planning for the week (with exception of meals out)
2. Entrance to park/forest and backcountry permits if necessary
3. Campground fees, cabin, or lodging fees
4. Use of tools and safety equipment
5. Crew leadership and group supervision
6. Exclusive American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations t-shirt



EARN AWESOME OUTDOOR SWAG!

We are providing our dedicated trail stewards the opportunity to make an even bigger impact on trails beyond your week of service by fundraising for American Hiking Society. It's easy to sign up and just by tapping into your network of friends and family you can help us in our mission to protect the places you love to hike.

In addition to helping us get more "boots-on-the-ground", raising funds for Volunteer Vacations can get you some really great gear to take on your next adventure. We've curated an extensive list of some of the best outdoor gear and equipment in the industry to reward you for your fundraising efforts. Find out how you can save more trails and get your Volunteer Vacation registration fee comped, bit.ly/FundraiseForTrails.

Win These



SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Special thanks to the sponsors and supporters who make our stewardship programs possible. We could not do it without you!



2017 VOLUNTEER VACATIONS REGISTRATION FORM

Choose one of the following methods to submit your Volunteer Vacations 2017 registration:

ONLINE: Register one or more participants online at AmericanHiking.org

CALL: (800) 972 - 8608 ext. 704

MAIL: Complete both sides of this form and mail to:

American Hiking Society, Volunteer Vacations Program
8605 Second Ave. | Silver Spring, MD 20910

Questions? - LWile@AmericanHiking.org | 301.565.6704 ext. 704

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email (required): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

(please list someone that will NOT be on the trip with you)

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

TRIP INFORMATION

First Trip:* _____ Trip Date:* ___/___/___

Additional Trip: _____ Trip Date: ___/___/___

Additional Trip: _____ Trip Date: ___/___/___

*Please note: there is a chance the trip(s) you have selected will be full by the time we receive the paper registration. We will notify you if your trip selection is not available.



BACKGROUND/PHYSICAL CONDITION

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___ Gender: _____

Occupation: _____

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL No T-shirt

1. Rate your current physical condition:

Limited Average Good Excellent

2. Do you currently have any medical or physical conditions that are relevant to outdoor activities that may impact your participation in this trip?

YES NO If YES, please describe: _____

3. List any Allergies: (food, drug, insect bites) _____

4. List any special dietary needs or restrictions (We may not always be able to accommodate): _____

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

5. Describe your past HIKING experience: _____

6. Describe your past CAMPING and/or BACKPACKING experience: _____

7. Describe your past TRAIL MAINTENANCE experience: _____

PAYMENT

\$275: American Hiking Society Member (First Trip per Calendar Year)

\$330: Non-Member, First Trip per Calendar Year
(Includes 1-year AHS membership)

\$195: Additional Trips per Calendar Year

\$195: Group Registration
(Minimum of 4- all must be AHS members- submit 4 separate forms)

\$195: Youth Registration, Under 18 Years of Age
(Must be accompanied by legal guardian on trip)

\$_____ Total

Enclosed is my check made payable to American Hiking Society

OR

Charge my VISA MASTER CARD

Card # : _____ EXP: ___/___

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

By submitting this form, you acknowledge and agree to American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations Cancellation Policy and Terms of Service.



THE FINE PRINT

King Range National Conservation Area, CA
Photo: Justin Robbins

CANCELLATION POLICY

- ▶ Cancellations received at least 8 weeks prior to the start date of the project will receive a 50% refund of the original registration fee paid. The membership fee is non-refundable.
- ▶ No refund will be made if cancellation is made less than 8 weeks prior to the start date or if the participant fails to show up for the project. This includes instances of injury or illness.
- ▶ If notice is received at least 8 weeks prior to the start date of the project, participants may switch to another project during the same calendar year, subject to an additional \$50 administrative fee.
- ▶ All trips require a registration fee. Full refunds are only available if a trip is canceled or already filled to maximum capacity.

TERMS OF SERVICE

- ▶ Once the minimum number of volunteers has been met and all details have been confirmed with the project, we will send you a project confirmation, via email. These are generally sent out 6-8 weeks in advance of the project start.
 - Do not to book non-refundable transportation until receiving the project confirmation.
 - AHS is not responsible for lost funds due to canceled or modified travel itineraries.
- ▶ Volunteers provide all personal gear and equipment, including a backpack, tent sleeping bag, broken-in boots, and other personal items for trips where these items are required.
- ▶ Travel to and from the project location is not included in the registration fee. Some trips may require certain additional expenses beyond the registration fee.

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

- ▶ All trip participants must provide their own health and accident insurance; in case of injury or illness while on their trip. Each participant is required to fill out an Assumption of Risk and Release Form prior to participating on any trip. Please consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance to cover you in the event that you are no longer able to participate in your scheduled trip. Trip cancellation insurance protects you against financial loss if you must cancel a trip because of illness or injury to yourself, a family member, or traveling companion.

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY
**VOLUNTEER
VACATIONS**

2017 TRIP SCHEDULE



Mojave National Preserve, CA
Photo: Evelyn Eades

American Hiking Society
8605 Second Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
www.AmericanHiking.org

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