

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2002

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Highland Center Supports the AMC's Educational Mission

CRAWFORD NOTCH, N.H. – The Highland Center at Crawford Notch, the Appalachian Mountain Club's newest center for adventure, learning, and lodging, is uniquely situated to provide lasting and meaningful learning opportunities for day and overnight visitors of all ages.

The Highland Center is a new outdoor program center and lodge being built on AMC property in Crawford Notch at the site of the former Crawford House. The center will be open to the public, and is designed to offer lasting outdoor experiences through AMC's skills training workshops, guided hikes, school programs, interpretive programs and displays on natural and cultural history.

The Highland Center at Crawford Notch will also serve as a public resource for environmental education programs, trail and weather information, and outdoor skill-building opportunities for visitors to the White Mountains.

"Education is a cornerstone of the AMC mission," said AMC Deputy Director Walter Graff. "We're excited about the learning opportunities that abound in the White Mountains, especially in the Crawford Notch area, and we're eager to provide a place where kids, adults, and families can explore, enjoy, and care for the mountain environment."

Highland Center guests can choose to participate in a range of outdoor activities and learning opportunities, and get a hearty meal and warm bed at the end of the day.

The Highland Center at Crawford Notch will further enable the AMC to reach out to schools, students and educators with its "A Mountain Classroom" program. Through the popular program, educators and their students stay at the Highland Center and learn about the outdoors first-hand.

Students and teachers will be able to conduct water studies at nearby Ammonoosuc and Saco lakes, track the path of the continental ice sheet that carved Crawford Notch, and explore the vestiges of old-growth forests. Programs in water ecology, forest resources, and air quality will be designed to encourage participants to develop a deeper connection to the outdoors.

As well, interpretive displays will encourage greater understanding of the natural and cultural history of Crawford Notch.

With more than 93,000 members in the Northeast and beyond, the Appalachian Mountain Club promotes natural resource conservation through responsible recreation, based on the philosophy that successful, long-term conservation depends upon first-hand enjoyment of the natural environment.

Founded in 1876, the nonprofit Appalachian Mountain Club is the oldest and most experienced conservation and recreation organization in the United States. The AMC's programs and facilities are open to members and nonmembers alike. More information on the AMC is available on the web at www.outdoors.org.

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