

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Rob Burbank, AMC Public Affairs Director
(603) 466-2721 ext. 195
rburbank@amcinfo.org

**AMC Builds New Lodge and Learning Center at Crawford Notch, N.H.
Several Local Contractors Involved in Construction**

BRETTON WOODS, N.H.— The Highland Center at Crawford Notch, the Appalachian Mountain Club's newest destination for adventure, learning, and lodging, is under construction in Crawford Notch, N.H.

Slated to open in September, the center will offer outdoor programs and activities for individuals, families, and school groups.

Situated in New Hampshire's scenic Crawford Notch on 26 acres owned by the AMC, the center will be open to members and nonmembers alike.

"One of our goals is to provide opportunities for Highland Center visitors to connect with the outdoors in a way that helps them to better understand and appreciate the mountain environment and their place in it," said Walter Graff, deputy director of the AMC.

The center will provide opportunities for guests to explore the mountains, rivers, and trails through such activities as natural history walks and skill-building workshops that focus on low-impact backpacking, ice climbing, nature photography, and other outdoor pursuits. Outdoor leadership training will also be held at the center.

Thanks to a generous gift from L.L. Bean, the Highland Center at Crawford Notch is able to offer complimentary use of outdoor gear to guests participating in AMC-staffed activities.

A total of 34 lodging rooms will provide accommodations for up to 122 guests. Private rooms with private baths and shared rooms with shared baths will be available.

Lodging at the center will be available for individuals and groups. All visitors will have opportunities to take part in such regularly scheduled offerings as natural history programs, nature walks, and guided hikes.

Scenic views from the site, and from Highland Center guest rooms, take in the Gateway to the Notch, the Rosebrook Range, and the Dartmouth Range.

The Highland Center is the newest use of the historic site, which was settled by Abel Crawford, his wife, and two sons in 1792. His son, Ethan Allen Crawford, built the Notch House in 1828 to house travelers. His brother, Thomas, later built a resort hotel on the site in 1852.

That hotel burned in 1859, and the Crawford House grand hotel was constructed in its place within the year. That structure served countless guests, including several United States presidents. It burned in 1977.

The AMC worked with Carlone Dick LaFleche architects of Cambridge, Mass., and The Halvorson Company of Boston, landscape architects, to develop an environmentally sensitive building that complements the surrounding landscape while paying tribute to the site's rich cultural history.

The Highland Center incorporates environmentally sensitive building features, with an emphasis on energy efficiency to help the center "sit lightly on the land."

The site will feature plantings of native trees and shrubs, which do double duty as teaching tools in natural history programs.

The center is designed with a concentrated footprint to minimize site impacts and to enhance energy efficiency. The building's windows contain triple-glazed, Low-E glass, with more than 60 percent facing south to capture the benefits of the sun's rays and natural light as well as cooling southerly breezes.

The building is heavily insulated to ensure energy efficiency. A highlight of the building's design is its heating system, powered by a wood-fired Garn boiler. The system will make use of a local, renewable energy supply to serve the center's heating and hot water needs, while producing ultra-low emissions due to the boiler's efficient, environmentally sensitive design.

Site drainage systems were designed to take advantage of natural drainage patterns, and hardened surfaces are made of crushed stone instead of asphalt, to allow rainwater to be absorbed on site and to minimize water run-off.

Several New England-based contractors are working on the building.

The construction management firm for the project is MacMillin Company of Keene, N.H.

Civil engineering was performed by HEB Engineers of North Conway, N.H.

With an eye toward the “reduce, reuse, recycle” philosophy, the AMC chose recycled steel for the lodge’s frame, which was fabricated by Isaacson Structural Steel of Berlin, N.H.

The lodge’s dining area features timber-framing by Benson Woodworking of Walpole. Some of those timbers were reclaimed from a dismantled pier.

Other New Hampshire-based contractors include L.A. Drew of North Conway, which is performing site work; Veno Electric of North Conway; Panel Pro insulators of Westmoreland; Hicks Painting of Whitefield; and McGee Co. of Lancaster, the mechanical contractor. Newcon Builders of Lakeport poured the concrete foundations.

Smith Hill Woodcraft of Alstead, N.H., is performing interior finish carpentry at the Highland Center, while McEntee Masonry of Lyndeborough, N.H., did concrete masonry and stone work. Granite State Glass of Belmont, N.H., provided aluminum entrances. Lang Door & Hardware of Manchester, N.H., installed doors, frames, and hardware.

The building includes an elevator from Otis Elevator of Westbrook, Maine. Dean & Allyn of Lewiston, Maine, provided the fire protection systems.

Kempo Steel Fabricators of Tewksbury, Mass., provided miscellaneous metal work.

Vermont-based contractors working on the Highland Center include Roger Gosselin of Derby, which did concrete flatwork; Don Vac Inc. of Williston, which handled metal framing and drywall; and Cell Tech of St. Johnsbury, which installed cellulose insulation.

Metal roofing was installed by Rodd Roofing of St. Johnsbury, and LaFerriere Construction of Danbury installed the exterior siding and trim.

Advance reservations for the Highland Center at Crawford Notch can be made by calling (603) 466-2727. More information is available on the AMC’s website at <http://www.outdoors.org/highland/>.

The AMC supports natural resource conservation while encouraging responsible recreation, based on the philosophy that successful, long-term conservation depends upon first-hand enjoyment of the natural environment.

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the United States. With more than 90,000 members in the Northeast and beyond, the nonprofit AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers and trails of the Appalachian region.

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