



Teen Trail Crew Information for Parents & Teens

- NH's White Mts. & Cardigan Campground • NJ's Mohican Outdoor Center
- Mass's Noble View Outdoor Center & The Berkshires • Boston's Bay Circuit Trail
- NY's Harriman State Park • Maine Woods & Land Trust Partners

SUMMARY: This program is ideal for adventurous, outdoorsy teens who want to experience a week Spiking out in the backcountry, or Base Camping in the front country, while engaging in a worthwhile service project. All crews are co-ed and are categorized by age though exceptions are made for summer birthdays. The service work entails conservation-related projects in regard to maintaining hiking trails and protecting surrounding national forests and wilderness lands. Each crew will have a specific project, which may involve clearing brush to better define the trail, cleaning drainage to help with erosion problems, installing water bars and bog bridges to stabilize the trail, repairing ski trails, building cairns above tree line, redefining protected land boundaries, working on shelters, painting blazes, building rock staircases, and other crucial conservation tasks.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Upon successful completion of a one-week trail program, teens will earn up to 40 hours of school community service and receive an emailed letter on AMC letter-head, reflecting this. Upon successful completion, 10-day Maine Woods crews earn up to 64 hours, two-week crews earn up to 80 hours, and four-week crews earn up to 160 hours of community service. (If a teen becomes ill or injured and cannot finish the program, partial hours are granted.)

SUPERVISION: Each crew of up to 10 teens is led by two responsible, college-aged Crew Leaders. We attempt to pair each crew with a male and female crew leader as staff availability allows. All staff goes through an intensive 3-week training covering leadership skills, trail work, emergency situations, policies, and group management. All staff is certified in CPR, Wilderness First Aid or higher (Wilderness First Responder, EMT, etc.) and are DOT certified to drive our 12-passenger vans. They have also had a criminal background check (CORI) as well as a driver's license check. When crews are in the field, management staff stays in touch using 2-way radios and cell phones where there are signals.

ACCOMMODATIONS, GEAR & FOOD: Base camp accommodations vary according to the site of the trail crew, and range from bunk houses to tent platforms with canvas tents to a campground campsite or walk-in site with nylon 2-4-person tents. At Camp Dodge in the White Mountains, base crew meals are prepared by staffed cooks and crews assist with clean-up after each meal. All other base camp crews

TYPES OF CREWS & AGE LIMITS:

1-Week Base Crew – 14-16	1-Week Spike Crew – 15-17	10-Day ME Woods Base Crew – 16-18
2-Week Spike Crew – 16-18	1-Week Alpine Crew – 16-18	4-Week Leadership Spike Crew – 17-19

BASE CREWS: This is a crew where teens are camping in the front country meaning a place you drive in to, at a pre-existing facility that could have flush or pit toilets, showers or swimming area, tent platforms, an established camp site, and possible food storage. In most cases the general public will be camping nearby. At some locations, crews will simply hike to their project site. In other locations it will be necessary to drive to a trail-head in a 12-passenger van.

SPIKE CREWS: This is a crew that backpacks as a group to a primitive site in the woods. It is off-trail and has been pre-scouted by an AMC Staff member to ensure there is flat ground to camp on, a water source, and will not overly impact the environment. There are no toilets, showers or other amenities besides nature. Teens are taught the principles of Leave No Trace and how to minimize their impact in pristine areas.

and spike crews do their own cooking and cleaning as supervised by the crew leaders. **All shared gear:** tents, tarps, rope, stoves, cooking pots, utensils, all food, water treatment, tools and first-aid supplies is provided. Anything personal such as a sleeping bag, sleeping pad, clothes, raingear, boots, backpack, bowl & utensil, toiletries, etc., is not provided. Food menus are created based on the allergies/ non-allergies of the crew **so it is important to return paperwork well ahead of time so we have the appropriate information.** On SPIKE crews, all group gear, tools, and food is divided up amongst crew members to carry into the backcountry in their backpacks which usually weigh 40 to 60 pounds. This does not apply to base camps; however they will carry tools to their work site and may be asked to carry some additional items in their day packs.

WEATHER & TRANSPORTATION: The weather in all locations, especially in the mountains, is notoriously unpredictable. Conditions can vary tremendously during the summer months from warm, clear days, to cool, windy, rainy or even snowy conditions in the higher elevations. While we work within the abilities and comfort of the group, the nature of hiking and the work, is strenuous and demanding, and we'll be out **rain or shine**. The easiest way to travel to our locations is by personal vehicle and we will share email addresses prior to the trip for carpooling purposes. Past participants have traveled by bus and airplane, too. Some locations are easier to get to than others, using public transportation.

HOW TO REGISTER:

1. You and your teen fill out the 2-Page Application found on our website. Questions 1-6 must be answered by the teen applying. Include payment at the time of registering and be sure to include three crew choices so you are sure to get into one of them. We will not hold spots without having received a completed application.
2. You will receive an email that you either got into a crew or are wait listed. If you get a spot on a crew, payment will be processed and it will be your responsibility to complete the paperwork attached to the email and return it by the deadline. At this time you should also be looking at the gear list and gathering what you need before the crew begins.
3. After we've looked over the paperwork and determined everything is in order, you will receive a confirmation email. Please remember that some of the medical forms need a signature from an authorized medical person. Please don't wait until the last minute!

QUESTIONS? *Please call the Volunteer Trails Programs & Registrations Office at (603)466-8156 or email us at: aviolette@outdoors.org.*
For a list of all teen trail crews and to register, please visit: www.outdoors.org/volunteer