



# TRAIL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

2023 SEASON REPORT



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OUTDOORS**  
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB





I am once again wowed, inspired, and grateful as I reflect on the 2023 season for AMC's Trail Volunteer Programs. We had a stellar season and experienced tremendous growth this year, especially with our AmeriCorps program. But, I want to start by acknowledging a devastating loss to our team this year. At the start of the year, Becki Linhart, our Southern New England Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor, was diagnosed with a rare cancer, and despite aggressive treatment, passed away in June. Her absence and loss was palpable throughout the season, but she also felt present in many ways: in the positive experience of the AmeriCorps members who participated in a program she had helped to build, in the jovial teamwork and compassionate leadership of the New England Trail youth crew she had worked with, in the continued care of the Noble View facility where she had organized the office, tool, and staff housing space, and in the ongoing chainsaw trainings she had facilitated. Our team missed Becki's dry sense of humor, matter-of-fact approach and can-do attitude, and we carried on with the season, ever aware that we were doing the work that she had loved and dedicated herself to.

To shift to the positive, we were very excited to welcome Nora Sackett back to the AMC this year and into a full-time role as our North Country Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor. Nora had previously worked as a seasonal crew leader for our Teen Trail Crews and Volunteer Vacations, and had also worked with AMC's Professional Trail Crew as well as with the Adirondack Mountain Club and Utah Conservation Corps. Nora's past experiences and familiarity with the AMC prepared her well to step into the lead for our AmeriCorps program, which grew to 22 members this season, all of them based at Camp Dodge. Nora balanced oversight of the AmeriCorps program with additional responsibilities for the adopt-a-trail program, the trail sign volunteers, Berlin High School JAG crew, one-day volunteer events in partnership with the World Trails Network and other partners on the Franconia Ridge Loop, and fall volunteer vacations. With Becki's absence, Nora took on tremendous responsibility for the training and coordination of all of our AmeriCorps members; her strong organization, skilled instruction, past conservation corps experience, hard work and fun attitude were essential to the success of our season. To say it was a busy, full, and uplifting season is all an understatement.

I continue to be impressed by all who connect with the AMC, whether staff or volunteer, to bring their time, energy and dedication to making the world a bit better through acts of stewardship and participation in community. My heartfelt thanks to all whose work is showcased in this report!



Happy trails,  
Amanda Peterson  
AMC Trail Programs Operations Manager

We would like to thank **The Hayes Foundation** for providing general support to the AMC's trails department, including the volunteer and youth employment programs highlighted in this report.



My first year in the role as Volunteer Programs Supervisor has been both challenging and exciting. I was first introduced to trail work as an AMC teen volunteer in 2014, and then began working for the AMC in 2017 as a Teen Trail Crew leader, so I was very excited to return to the place where I began my trail work career, and work with some familiar faces.

A highlight of my summer was getting to supervise our 22 person AmeriCorps cohort. These young members brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm to Camp Dodge. I enjoyed getting to spend time in the field with them, teach them new skills, and work alongside them as they experienced new things. I am thankful for all of the hard work and effort they put into the season, and impressed by the positive attitudes they maintained through a very rainy and wet summer.

Another highlight was getting to work alongside volunteers in so many different capacities. I cleared vegetation alongside volunteers on the Old Bridle Path, taught critical maintenance training to new trail adopters, constructed bog bridges with seasoned volunteers during our volunteer vacation weeks. It was inspiring being surrounded by volunteers with such a wide range of backgrounds and knowledge- some were learning about trail work for the first time, and some have been doing trail work for longer than I have been alive! These volunteers completed an outstanding amount of work this year.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this season a success. Everyone in our greater trails department, both seasonal and full-time staff, worked very hard to help support the large volume of programs that we had this year. We had nearly 500 volunteers work on the trails this year in some capacity, performing an impressive total of 13,432 hours of trail maintenance.

In all, it was a very eventful season with many new experiences. I left the season feeling accomplished and excited for future years to come!



Sincerely,  
Nora Sackett  
AMC North Country Trails Volunteer Programs Supervisor

## 2023 Summary

Program	Volunteer/Youth Crew Participants	Total Volunteer/Youth Crew Hours
AmeriCorps	22	9,600
MassHire NET Youth Crew	6	911
Berlin HS JAG Youth Crew	7	892
Volunteer Vacations	22	532
AMC Chapters	44	244
Custom Crews and One Day Events	176	814
Trail Adopters	221	2,242
Total	498	15,235



This was our second year running an AmeriCorps program at the AMC. This year, we welcomed four crews made up of 20 members and 2 “member leaders.” These members began the season with several weeks of training, where they learned technical trail work skills as well as outdoor and hiking skills, and leadership and interpersonal skills. After the training period, they launched into the 9 week project season. AmeriCorps members had a mix of front country projects where they were staying at Camp Dodge and commuting to the project each day, and backcountry projects where they were camped out in the woods near their project. Crews spent most of the season patrolling trails, completing critical maintenance along the way. Each crew had also spent several weeks of the season working on a larger scale project. AmeriCorps members enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills, and enjoyed the satisfaction of building trail structures from start to finish. More information about the critical maintenance and projects completed is included below.

## Season Accomplishments:

**Dates Worked:** May 29-August 17  
**Total Hours:** 9600  
**Blowdowns Removed:** 242  
**Brush Cleared:** 59.4 miles  
**Trail Benched:** .5 miles  
**Bog Bridges Built:** 4  
**Drains Built and Maintained:** 435  
**Waterbars Built:** 6  
**Rock Steps Built:** 26  
**Boardwalks Built:** 3  
**Footbridge Built:** 1  
**Ladders Built:** 2  
**Cairns Built:** 4  
**Trail Blazed:** 1.5 miles  
**Bridge Repaired:** 1  
**Biomass Retention Structure Built:** 1  
**Timber Check Steps Built:** 31



## Education and Training

The AmeriCorps crew members participated in trainings covering a wide variety of topics related to trail work and outdoor leadership, including:

- Tool introductions, safety, and maintenance
- Basic (Level 1) trail maintenance
- Backcountry camping
- Sustainable trail design and tread repair
- Rock moving techniques, and rock structures
- Carpentry
- Axe Training
- Chainsaw – Bucking and limbing, safety, and maintenance
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Leadership and decision making
- Wilderness First Aid
- Leave No Trace (LNT)
- Wilderness management and crosscut saw use





## Level 1 Maintenance

Over the course of the season, these four AmeriCorps crews spent a combined total of over 3,300 hours completing Level 1 maintenance on nearly 70 miles of trails. “Level 1” maintenance refers to the critical annual maintenance that involves clearing vegetation and fallen trees from the trail corridor, and also ensuring trail drainage structures are cleaned and functionally moving water off of the trail. A highlight for the crews was clearing blowdowns with their axes. Crews also spent a lot of time clipping branches with loppers and handsaws, and clearing and reshaping drainage dips on the trail. Most of our AmeriCorps cohort were new to the White Mountains, so they enjoyed getting to see new trails and views they had never seen before. The crew maintained several USFS Androscoggin District trails as well as trails maintained by the AMC.



An AmeriCorps member clearing a drainage dip



Crew 2 on the top of Mount Adams



Crew 3 on a rainy day in the Mahoosucs



Crews 2 and 4 on the top of Mount Washington



Alex and Lex with a blowdown

Dates	Trail	Mileage of trail maintained	# AmeriCorps Members	AmeriCorps Hours	# staff	Staff hours	Drainages	Brushing (ft.)	Blow Downs Removed
July 5 & 6	Air Line	4.3	5	135	1	5	64	30,624	19
August 14	*Albany Mountain	2.0	4	40				8,448	
June 26, July 17 & 18	Austin Brook	3.5	9	130	2	16	20	36,960	7
August 15 & 16	Avalanche Brook Ski	1.0	4	18				5,280	
August 14	Avalon	1.5	4	38					4
July 3-6	Baldface Circle	3.0	5	200	1	6	27	6,336	8
August 15	Boott Spur Link	0.6	3	30				1,100	2
August 14	Cascade Loop	0.2	4	2				1,056	1
June 21 & 29	Centennial	3.1	10	70			6	21,120	9
June 19	Crew Cut	1.0	5	50			18	2,000	3
June 22, July 19&20	Dryad Falls	1.5	5	136			3	17,424	4
July 31- August 3	Eagle Link	1.0	4	160				5,000	2
June 26-29	Ethan Pond	1.0	5	75			8	14,784	
July 17-20, August 15	Indian Head	1.9	6	222	2	14	10	500	17
June 27, August 15	Kedron Flume	1.3	8	93	1	6	5	11,864	7
August 16	*Kilkenny Ridge		3	15				10,000	
July 24-27	Kinsman Ridge	1.9	5	190			18	12,000	2
June 27-29, July 20 August 7-10 & 16	Mahoosuc	13.5	16	385			68	73,856	52
July 17, August 10	Mt. Willard	1.4	6	41	1	11	20	20	7
June 21	Nelson Crag	0.2	4	40	1	4	22	1,000	2
June 29	Notch	2.2	5	50				11,616	3
June 22, July 17	Old Jackson Road	1.9	8	52	1	19	22		10
June 19-22	Osgood	2.1	6	190	3	30	50	13,728	5
August 15	Osseo	0.2	6	18			1	13,200	1
June 19-20	Peabody Brook	2.9	5	100			5	5,280	5
July 17-20, 24-27, August 14	Pine Link	0.8	8	190			32	4,200	17
June 20-21	Raymond Path	2.4	5	70			26	1,000	7
July 4	Saco Lake	0.3	5	25	1	5			1
June 26-27	Speck Pond	3.0	5	100	1	7		10,560	7
June 28	Valley Way	3.8	5	50	1	4			26
August 14	Whitehouse	0.8	4	40			1	5,280	2
July 24-27, July 31- August 3	*Wild River	3.3	9	287			5	12,000	20
August 16	Wildcat Ridge	0.3	4	40				1,500	
August 9	Wildcat River	1.7	2	20	1	10	2	150	8
June 26-29	Wiley Range	0.3	5	50			7	6,336	4
August 16	*York Pond	2.0	4	40				5,280	8
	Totals:	69.9		3,010		137	435	313,774	242

\*Trail maintained as part of Urban Connections Level 1 agreement on the Androscoggin district





## Old Bridle Path

Crew 1 spent 3 weeks in the beginning of the season working with AMC's Professional Trail Crew on the Old Bridle Path. Under the skilled leadership of the Professional Trail Crew, AmeriCorps members learned how to drill, split, and set rocks to make staircases. This was year 2 of a 5 year project dedicated to making the extremely popular Franconia Loop Trail more sustainable to withstand all of the use it gets. Since the trail is so heavily trafficked, an element of this work is making the trail wider than it was before. When making rock staircases, this meant that the steps were often two rocks set next to each other.



Maya moving a rock with a rockbar



AmeriCorps and Pro crew members with AMC CEO Nicole Zussman



Two rocks are set next to each other to create a wider walkway

**Dates:** June 19- July 6  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 580  
**Pro Crew Hours:** 630  
**Staff Hours:** 8  
**Accomplishments:**  
20 Rock Steps Set  
90 cubic feet of scree set  
48 cubic feet of crush made  
290 feet of naturalizing



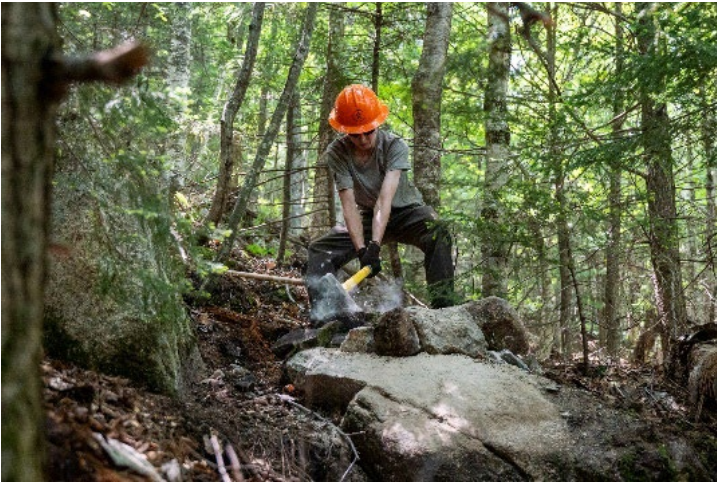
Steps set with scree, rocks lining the steps to ensure hikers walk on the durable steps





## Ethan Pond Trail

One of our crews spent 3 weeks with AMC's Professional Trail Crew on Ethan Pond. The goal of this project was creating timber check steps along an eroded, heavily trafficked section of trail. AmeriCorps members helped the pro crew haul lumber up the trail, and learned how to dig a hole for the steps, set them in the ground and level them, and backfill them with crush to create a landing pad. Crew members created crush by smashing up larger rocks with a sledgehammer. The crew also installed several rock water bars between the steps for drainage.



Ryan making crush



Check steps in progress

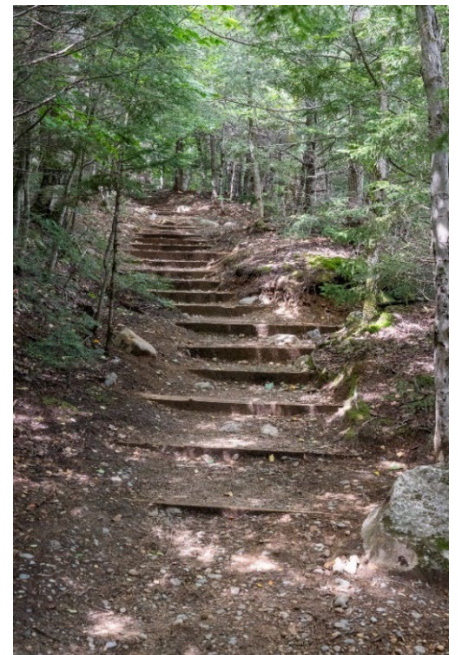
**Dates:** July 4-20  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 394  
**Pro Crew Hours:** 545  
**Staff Hours:** 10  
**Accomplishments:**  
31 Timber Steps set  
2 Water Bars created  
5 Rock Steps set  
8 feet of scree placed



A rock waterbar placed at the top of a stretch of check steps, to help water drain off of the trail



Teagan digging a trench to place a log in



A finished section of timber check steps



## Robert Frost Trail

A crew travelled to Western Massachusetts to spend 2 weeks working with the Kestrel Land Trust on the Robert Frost Trail. With the help of Amanda, Professional Trail Crew Field Coordinator Miriam, and Luke from the Kestrel land trust, the crew learned many new carpentry skills, and built 3 boardwalks and a footbridge spanning a small stream. They also used rock and gravel to improve trailside drainage and fill in a persistently muddy section of the trail, and finished by adding a drainage structure to move water away from the newly completed footbridge.



Crew members fasten decking one of the boardwalk

**Dates:** July 31- August 10  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 450  
**Pro Crew Hours:** 10  
**Staff Hours:** 60  
**Accomplishments:**  
3 Boardwalks built  
1 Foot Bridge built  
1 Drain built  
1 Side Ditch built



Crew members with Miriam after decking the foot bridge



Crew members pose with their first boardwalk, complete with ramps and side rails



Crew members set base logs for the boardwalk



## Webster Cliff Trail

The Webster Cliff Trail project was two-fold, and had two crews working together for several weeks. The first part of the project was replacing a timber ladder in a steep rocky section. The old ladder was missing rungs, and was dangerous. With the help of AMC's Pro Crew Leader Lou Kimball, AmeriCorps members dismantled the old ladder and replaced it with a box step at the base of the rocks, and then two ladders to bring hikers to the top of the rocky sections. The other part of the project was working on a section next to a rock slab where an old supported bog bridge-style structure had failed and was becoming very eroded as hikers were taking a route above the rocks that trampled vegetation. After some brainstorming, we decided to put in a biomass retention wall to stabilize the bank. Crew members stacked organic materials like logs and branches on top of each other, and then filled in the area with soil. Bog bridges were then placed on top of the retaining structure, and secured into the structure with rebar. This created a much more stable pathway for hikers to walk on.



Above: The progression of building up the bio mass retention wall, cutting base logs to fit the area, laying out bog bridges, and the finished product.

Below: Crew members cut logs to size, and then place rails for the ladder. Notches were then cut for the steps, and steps were placed



**Dates:** July 23- August 8  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 591  
**Pro Crew Hours:** 10  
**Staff Hours:** 30  
**Accomplishments:**  
5 bog bridges built  
2 ladders built  
1 box step built

Thanks to **AMC's Four Thousand Footer Committee** for supporting this project!



## Upper Saco Valley Land Trust

In the middle of the season, the AmeriCorps crews spent a week on the Pine Hill Community Forest with Greg Bjork of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Greg taught the crews many forestry techniques, such as tree measuring and bog mapping. Crews also completed some trail work on the property. Crews cut tread and pulled stumps both by hand and with a Griphoist. The crews learned a lot from Greg and had a lot of fun.



Above: Crew members stand with a root they pulled out of the ground



Above: Crew members learn about tree mapping from Greg

Below: Crew members cut new tread



**Dates:** July 11-13  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 550  
**Staff Hours:** 110  
**Accomplishments:**  
102 Stumps Removed  
420 ft. Tread Bench Cut  
4 Research Plots Recorded



# AmeriCorps



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# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

This year's New England Trail (NET) Youth Crew consisted of 6 teens from Holyoke, MA, who were employed by MassHire, in partnership with the AMC and the National Park Service. One crew member was re-joining for his second year, but for the others it was their first time working with a trail crew. They all brought tremendously positive and hard-working attitudes, along with a strong sense of teamwork.

### Week 1 (June 26-29): NET Section 8

The first week of our season the NET Crew headed to Amherst to work on closing off short cuts and social trails along the New England Trail between the Notch Visitor Center and Mt. Norwottuck. Day one mostly consisted of getting to know each other and discussing goals we had for the season. The crew then headed to our first worksite and started learning about how social trails can be damaging to an ecosystem. In the afternoon we got caught in a heavy downpour during the last half hour of work, but instead of deterring the crew it gave us the motivation we needed to move a heavy blowdown into a social trail we wanted to block off! The rest of the week the crew continued blocking off two major social trails by setting large rocks and branches, and naturalizing the area.

On our third day we had the opportunity to work alongside one of the professional crews who were also working on the trail. The NET crew members really enjoyed working with an older group and got to learn more about trail work as a career path.

Our final day, the crew hiked up to a viewpoint on Mt. Norwottuck to debrief the first week and discuss what we learned!

# Teen Employees: 6  
Teen Employee Hours: 158  
Total Crew Hours: 238

**Work Completed:**  
Social Trails Blocked: 6  
Total Distance Covered: 0.4 mi



A salamander found while working on the trail



Cutting up a fallen tree to close off a shortcut





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

### Week 2 (July 3-6): NET Sections 4 and 8

The beginning of the second week began with the dismantling of a fire ring found on Section 4 of the New England Trail. Afterwards, some naturalization of the surrounding area helped to further mitigate impacts along the trail. During the afternoon, a different portion of the trail was patrolled, in which the crew took turns lopping branches to help fully clear the corridor. At the end of the day, the crew received best wishes for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday!

Wednesday saw a return to Section 8, as a location for a new drain was scouted and identified. The crew opted to construct a rock water bar that spanned the entire width of the trail. Crew members quarried for medium-sized stones, dug mineral soil, and crushed rock. The crew was able to start and finish this project within one work day! To celebrate their hard work, the crew was rewarded with a trip to a local ice-cream spot for some sweet treats.

Thursday yielded another opportunity for work to be done along the Snake Peak Trail. The crew was encouraged to help seek out the location of a project during a patrolling of the trail, in which they all identified a good location for another drainage. Thus, work began on a new rock water bar. Quarried rocks were sourced primarily from locations nearby the work site, along with from a small rock-field atop the mountain. Crew members took turns setting rocks, crushing, and digging for dirt.

# Teen Employees: 6  
Teen Employee Hours: 158  
Total Crew Hours: 238

**Work Completed:**  
1 Fire Ring Dismantled  
1 Social Trail Blocked  
2 Trails Brushed Out  
2 Water Bars Constructed



A crew member digging where a rock water bar will be built across the trail



Quarrying a rock to be used in one of the water bars





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

### Week 3 (July 10-13): Noble View All Persons Trail and NET Section 6

The NET crew spent this week learning about accessible trail construction and assisting one of AMC's professional trail crews on construction of an All Persons Trail at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell! We were able to assist with the completion of a large bridge as well as a stone turnpike. The pro-crew set a great example for the NET crew to learn more about various kinds of trail projects, and what it can be like working on a professional crew. Crew members continued to hone their rockwork skills by helping harvest material using dirt bags, rock slings, and a new tool: the Griphoist!

The crew switched things up on Thursday and completed a long basic maintenance patrol on Mt. Tom! It was a long hike, covering 7.5 miles of trail, brushing and clearing blowdowns, but we ended with a trip to get ice cream after such a strenuous week!



Learning how to use a Griphoist with one of AMC's Professional Trail Crew members



Quarrying a rock for the Noble View All Persons Trail

#Teen Employees: 6  
Teen Employee Hours: 151  
Total Crew Hours: 223

#### **Work Completed:**

##### ***At Noble View:***

Turnpikes completed: 1  
Crush: 240 cubic ft

##### ***On Mt. Tom:***

Length of Trail Maintained: 7.5 miles  
Blowdowns cleared: 3

### Week 4 (July 17-20): NET Section 5

The NET crew took on a new trail project this week—building bog bridges! This was a new challenge that had the crew all working together, which definitely brought us closer together by the end of the week. The crew measured, cut, and carried the lumber to our worksite, then spent the week constructing four bog bridges. Working in a wetland gave members the opportunity to learn about a new ecosystem and why our bog bridges were helping protect it by preventing trail erosion.

Later on this week we met Jennifer Jones, a wildlife biologist who helped us dismantle an illegal fire ring where there could potentially be rattlesnakes, just past our bog bridge site. The crew learned about native snake species and what to do if they encounter them in the wild.

Overall this week was a blast!





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

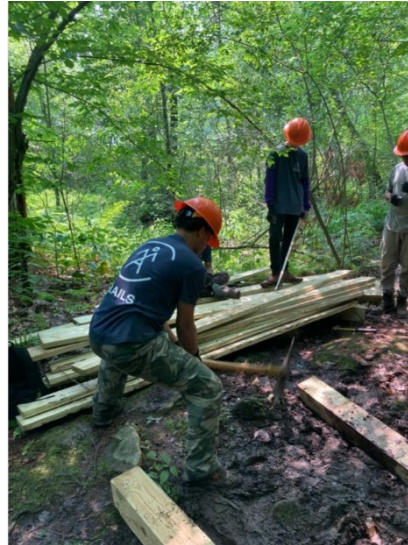
# Teen Employees: 6  
Teen Employee Hours: 158  
Total Employee Hours: 238

### Work Completed:

24 Pieces of Lumber Carried to Worksite  
4 Bog Bridges Constructed  
1 Fire Ring Dismantled  
0 Rattlesnakes Encountered

Left: Setting the foundation for a bog bridge

Right: Nailing the stringers on a bog bridge



## Week 5 (July 24-27): NET Section 5



# Teen Employees: 6  
Teen Employee Hours: 158  
Total Employee Hours: 238

**Work Completed:**  
1 16' Long Footbridge Constructed

Left: Assembling the foot bridge framing

Right: Measuring and squaring the foot bridge stringers

The NET Crew, with the help of AMC Professional Trail Crew Supervisor and soon-to-be NET Coordinator Miriam Maistelman, tackled the construction of a 16-foot long wooden foot bridge crossing a natural stream. The crew measured, sawed, and carried all of the lumber that would be used at the worksite. Once at the site, the crew measured and marked precisely where the boards would all line up with each other, while others began the process of setting the base logs at either end of the stream. This process wound up taking multiple days of painstaking setting, but the crew's tenacity proved boundless as they were determined to construct such an awesome piece of trail infrastructure!

Once the base logs were set and the stringers were properly placed, the nailing in of the decking commenced, where all crew members took turns evenly spacing out and then nailing in all of the decking. Once complete, the crew bathed in their glory at such an incredible accomplishment! A trip to the ice cream parlor was a must after the arduous project had been completed.





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

### Week 6 (July 31-August 3): Camp Out and Adjourning

As the NET crew's season was coming to a close, it was imperative to reflect upon and celebrate the work and growth that had been accomplished during the season, along with finishing up smaller tasks. However, first priorities were set on the grand camping trip for the crew!

On Monday and Tuesday, four of the six crew members took part of a camping excursion at Noble View Outdoor Center, where the members learned how to pitch their own tents, light a campfire, maintain camp cleanliness, and cook up delicious camp meals (such as smore's and hotdogs). Later into the evening, a long game of manhunt was played throughout camp, where two teams searched for the other in the dark of the night. After a long night of fun, the members eventually fell asleep. The next morning, a pancake and bacon breakfast was made, and the campsite was cleaned up before the members were brought home for a half-day.

On Wednesday, the crew attended an employee appreciation event organized by MassHire, where food and gifts were provided for all of the members. The NET crew also joined AMC's AmeriCorps crew to help with their project along the Robert Frost Trail. To wrap up the day, a trip to Westfield's Stanley Park allowed the crewmembers to engage each other (and other local kids) in games of basketball and football.

Thursday was the final day with the crew. There were a couple of tasks that still needed to be completed, such as a deep cleaning of the work van, maintenance of hand tools, cleaning of hard hats, and a sweeping of the tool shed. Once these tasks were enthusiastically completed, the crew was rewarded with some pizza from a local pizza parlor, while the rest of the day was spent at Stanley Park, where a debrief was conducted to capture everyone's thoughts on the season, and everyone shared mostly positive feelings towards the great season they had been a part of.



# Teen Employees: 4 Monday and Tuesday, 6 Wednesday and Thursday  
Teen Employee Hours: 128  
Total Employee Hours: 238

#### Work Completed:

1 Van Cleaned  
1 Tool Shed Swept  
1 Crew Adjourning

### Crew Leaders

The 2023 NET Youth Crew season was particularly challenging for our leaders, due to the absence of our Program Supervisor, Becki Linhart, but they rose to the challenge. We are deeply grateful that our 2023 leaders, Aly Moorman and Elijah Pinette, were extremely well prepared and capable of facilitating a positive and successful season without a tremendous amount of support, and our Noble View Facility Coordinator, Hannah Korte, was also available to help the crew out when needed. This was Aly's second year serving as a NET Youth Crew Leader, so they were very familiar with the NET, our partners at MassHire, and the projects the crew might undertake. And Elijah was no stranger to AMC's summer youth employment partnerships, having worked as a student for 3 years with our NH-JAG crew in Berlin, NH, then serving as a JAG Crew Leader for a season before venturing to MA. Aly and Elijah worked together with impressive synergy and positive energy to ensure that the students on their crew experienced a friendly and inclusive work environment and had a variety of opportunities throughout the season to learn new skills, be exposed to a variety of





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## MASS HIRE NET YOUTH CREW

opportunities in the conservation field, stay safe and have a lot of fun. Aly and Elijah connected genuinely and compassionately with their crew members, and it was a tearful afternoon when the time came to wrap up the season and say farewells.

Aly and Elijah brought extensive prior trail work and crew leading experience to the season, and they also contributed to the delivery of training for newer staff and AmeriCorps members at AMC's Camp Dodge facility in NH. As a part of their season preparations, Aly and Elijah also visited their worksites along the NET and purchased all the gear their crew members would need, including rain gear, hiking boots, backpacks, and water bottles.

Much appreciation goes to Aly and Elijah for their hard work and facilitation of this successful season!

Here is Elijah's reflection on the season:

*Being able to rejoin the Appalachian Mountain Club as an NET crew leader was an exciting moment to embrace. Having been a part of AMC for four years already (three years as a youth-crew member and one year as a co-lead, both with the "JAG" sister program based out of New Hampshire), being provided with the opportunity to return for yet another season was something that I would wind up cherishing much more than previous seasons.*



*I am currently studying the fields of environmental science and geographic information systems not too far from home at Plymouth State University. Outside of trailwork during the summer, I spend time working a variety of jobs, including study-skills tutoring, music sales, and assistant general-management of the college radio station, WPCR. Allowing myself the freedom to be involved in such a program may seem like a luxury, however it does present some navigable challenges, such as time management, maintaining group dynamics, ensuring group safety, and project quality control. However, I find it more appropriate to present these as opportunities to advance various skills, rather than simply challenges.*

*As someone who had grown up exclusively within the White Mountains region, I had a very limited scope on how different social groups operated, especially within urban areas. The crew that my co-lead and I were fortunate enough to work with originally presented itself with the challenge of adjustment. However, apparent almost immediately, the crew presented itself as persevering, positive, and curious, which are among some of the most important qualities while on the worksite. Partaking in the projects we were able to provided amazing opportunities that sparked the curiosities of our youthful group members, which was one of the proudest moments throughout my entire tenure with the AMC.*

*I hope to return to the AMC in the future, ideally with something involving my degree after I graduate. It was such an honor to return for another year!*

*Sincerely, Elijah Pinette*

Thanks to the **US Department of the Interior/National Park Service** for supporting this impactful youth employment partnership with MassHire on the New England National Scenic Trail!





# Youth Employment Partnerships

NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

## Berlin High School Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Youth Crew

This year's JAG crew was made up of 6 students from Berlin high school. 4 of the students had previously been part of the JAG crew, which helped the crew run smoothly. The JAG students had 7 weeks of programming, starting and ending the season on Mount Jasper. Throughout these weeks, they worked on a variety of different projects, learning new skills along the way. Below is a summary of the crew's season.

### Level 1 Maintenance

The JAG crew began their season with a week of patrolling trails, completing critical maintenance along the way. They began the first day of the week with ice breakers and set expectations for the season, and then spent the rest of the day patrolling Mount Jasper. The steep hike on the first day of the season is always challenging, but the crew encouraged each other to persevere. When they finished working on Mount Jasper, they moved on to the Kilkenny Throughout the week, and several days the following week, the crew continued patrolling and worked both on Mount Jasper and on the Unknown Pond trail and Kilkenny Ridge trail in the Kilkenny region.

**Dates:** June 26-29, July 3, July 7

**Number of Teen Employees:** 6

**Teen Employee Hours:** 215

**Total Employee Hours:** 293

**Accomplishments:**

~235ft brushed in

21 drains cleared

1.65 miles corridor cleared

Cleared and reshaped 12 drains

11 blowdowns cleared



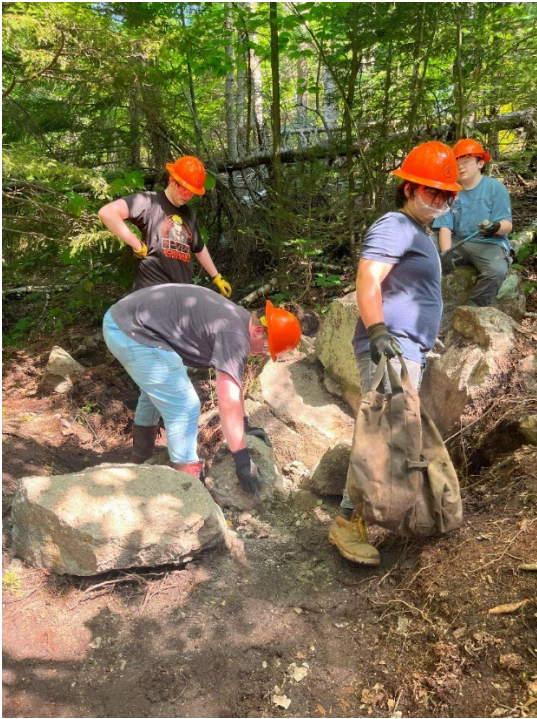
Crew member Aidan clears a drainage dip





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW



### Old Bridle Path

For the second week of the season, the crew travelled to the Old Bridle Path where the Professional Trail Crew and AmeriCorps crew was working. The crews were working on stone staircases, so the JAG crew assisted by making crush for them to fill in their structures. The hike up to the work site was challenging for the crew, but they were able to improve as the week went on.

**Dates:** July 5-6

**Number of Teen Employees:** 6

**Teen Employee Hours:** 39

**Total Employee Hours:** 52

**Accomplishments:** 16 bags of crush were made

Crew members use tools to collect rocks, crush them into smaller rocks and carry them over to the project site with canvas bags

### Working with the Forest Service

The third and fourth weeks of the season were spent with the Androscoggin Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest. James Vittetau, the trails manager for the district, lined out the crew on several projects and spent time working with us. We received a lot of heavy rain these weeks, which made the work challenging. The crew bounced around to several different projects throughout these weeks.

#### Bridge Removal

The crew dismantled and removed several old bridges: One near Dolly Cop Campground and one near Mount Washington. The crew tried to remove a bridge on a ski trail by the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, but the water levels were too high to do so.

**Dates:** July 10-11

**Number of teen employees:** 4

**Teen hours:** 52

**Total employee hours:** 78

**Accomplishments:** 2 bridges removed





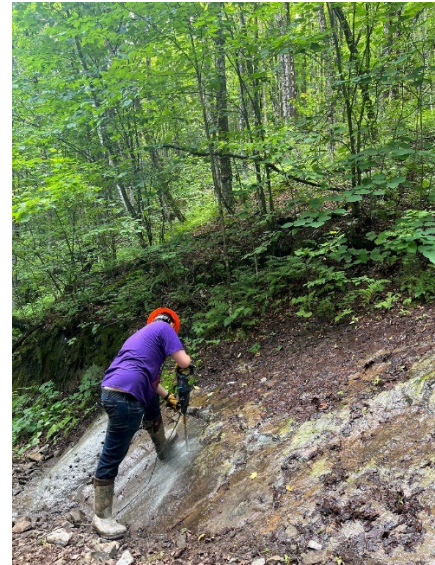
# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

### Snow Mobile Trail Ledge Chipping

The crew spent several days working on the South Pond Link snowmobile trail, trying several different methods to chip away at a ledge that protrudes into the trail. This is a project that the JAG crew has worked on in seasons past. We tried drilling with rock drills, using double jacks, and applying a cracking agent. The crew also made crush to fill in gaps on the trail

Both images show crew members chipping away at ledge with rock drills



**Dates:** July 13-18  
**Number of teen employees:** 7  
**Teen hours:** 111  
**Total employee hours:** 150  
**Accomplishments:** 4 drainages cleared  
100 cubic feet of crush made  
1 ledge chipped away





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

### Rattle River

The crew spent a day at the Rattle River trail helping James place rocks to create a water bar. Two drainage dips were built in conjunction with the water bar.

**Dates:** July 12  
**Teen Employees:** 3  
**Teen Hours:** 19.5  
**Total Employee Hours:** 32.5  
**Accomplishments:**  
5 rocks set for a water bar  
2 drains built



James and Ariya set a rock for a water bar

### Unknown Pond

The final project of the Forest Service weeks was setting stepping stones on the Unknown Pond trail. James provided guidance and instruction for this new project. The stepping stones made the muddy trail more sustainable and passable to hikers.



Evan pointing out a stepping stone set

**Dates:** July 19-20  
**Teen Employees:** 6  
**Teen Hours:** 78  
**Total Employee hours:** 104  
**Accomplishments:**  
10 stepping stones built  
1 drain built



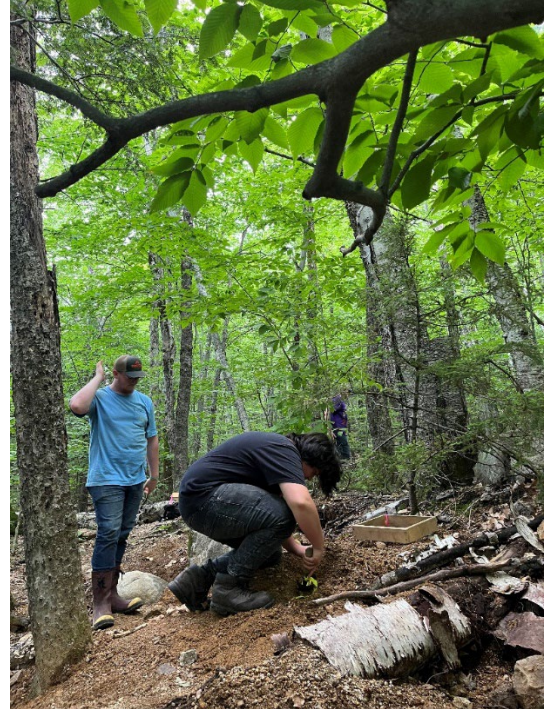
# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

### Career Week

On Monday July 24, we began the day at the AMC's Pinkham Notch Visitor Center and got a tour of Storehouse. We met with Hailee from the research department and talked about iNaturalist, met with Maya and Aila and talked about research and collecting samples of dragon flies from water sources. We talked to Galen from youth outdoor programs, and then hiked up the Tuckerman Ravine Trail to Crystal Cascade. On Tuesday the crew met with USFS geologist Elaine Swett and went to the Moat Mountain Mineral Site to mine for smokey quartz. On Wednesday, the crew hiked to Zealand hut and learned what it is like to be on an AMC hut crew. They checked out Zealand Falls on the way back. On Thursday, Joe Roman and Amanda Joy of the shelters department gave a presentation on the duties of an AMC caretaker. We then went up to the Mt. Washington Observatory and had a tour of the weather station. We came back and spent the rest of the day at Camp Dodge, and prepared materials for the following week with the help of several AmeriCorps crews.

**Dates:** July 24-27  
**Number of teens:** 6  
**Teen Hours:** 156  
**Total Hours:** 208



Crew members mine for minerals



Left: Crew member makes adjustments to the steps before setting in the side rail

### Mount Jasper

We spent the last two weeks of the season building a log ladder structure on the Mount Jasper trail. Pro Crew leader Ian, who has expertise in building wooden structures, spent the first week with us and showed us what to do. AmeriCorps member Alex also spent these weeks with the crew to help out. The crew learned a lot about building timber structures, and enjoyed the sense of accomplishment of building a structure on the trail behind their school.





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW



**Dates:** July 31-  
August 9  
**Teen Employees:** 6  
**AmeriCorps members:** 1  
**Teen Hours:** 221  
**Total Employee hours:** 383.5  
**Accomplishments:**  
2 ladders built,  
1 8 ft x 5 ft and  
1 10 ft x 5 ft

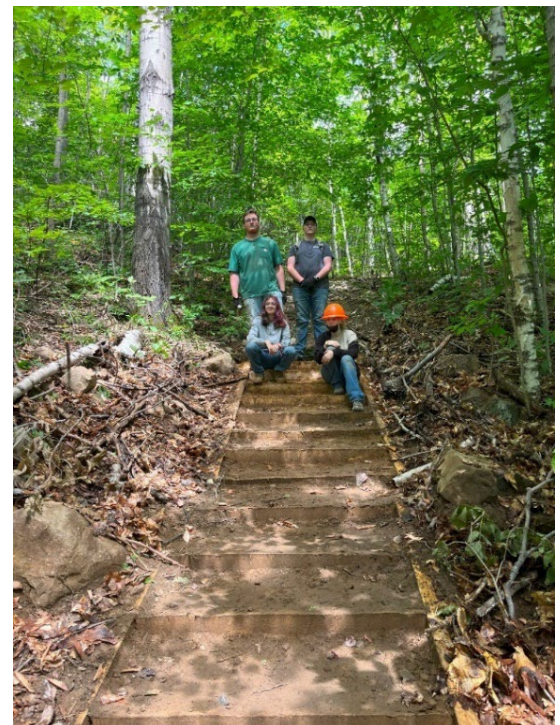
Ian and Evan cut a plank to the correct length



Ella digs a trench for a step



The crew travelled to Lake Christine for an end of year celebration



Crew members pose on the finished structure



# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

### Crew Leaders

Anna and Will were a very copacetic team who were able to operate with a great deal of autonomy as they worked with Kurt, Berlin High School's JAG Specialist, as well as project partners and the students on the crew. With so many students having been crew members in the past, Anna and Will provided space for crew members to teach skills, make decisions, and develop leadership. Will's previous experience as an AMC AmeriCorps member supported the technical aspects of the crew, while Anna brought a compassionate leadership style that supported teamwork, communication and growth. We are grateful to Anna and Will for facilitating a successful season!

### Letters from Anna and Will

*Being someone from an area with not much forest nor trails, the AMC/JAG program was something I was excited to be a part of. This program is something I would've loved to do in my high school years and I'm glad that I got to lead it for others. Whether it be an admiration for the natural world around me or appreciating the humorous side of things, I learned so much from this crew. Despite various conditions, the crew maintained positive and hard working throughout the season and came out closer with more skills.*

*We started the season patrolling the Kilkenny area. The crew was mainly made up of returners this year but despite many previously knowing each other, we all grew closer as the weeks went on. A highlight of these patrolling weeks was the crew giving everyone new names and we stuck with these names throughout the season. We began the patrolling weeks slowly but as time went on, the crew gained more thorough critical maintenance skills. Blowdowns were a highlight of patrolling for many, some would even run ahead to see if there was a blowdown further in the trail and then return to continue patrolling.*

*Another highlight of the season was crushing rock at both the Old Bridle Path and South Link snowmobile trail with the Forest Service. The crew had an affinity for crushing rock and each morning was excited for it. The snowmobile trail was a project they had worked on for previous years but despite the monotony, they loved seeing the progress they could make chipping away at the rock.*

*Throughout time on the trail, I noticed each member's own appreciation for the natural world around them. Many spent time finding rocks in streams nearby and Seeking every bug, animal, or plant they found. I found many unique plants and animals I had never seen before because of the crew's eye for them. Taking photos and exploring were parts of every day and helped the crew maintain a positive attitude. I can thank the crew's admiration of nature for making me take a step back from the work and really appreciate the opportunity to be working outdoors every day.*

*Lastly, we did a large log staircase project on Mt. Jasper, behind their high school. The crew wasn't excited for this project as they had spent a lot of time on the mountain throughout the years, but as the weeks went on, they fell in love with the project and its progress. This project involved a variety of tasks and each crew member took the time to teach each other different skills that they excelled in. Many of the members took pride in their "gains" each day. We left Mt. Jasper feeling gratified by our work.*

*The crew grew immensely over the season, both together and skills wise. We began the season huffing and puffing after each hike and ended breezing through them. Throughout the season, the crew showed support for each other and their growth. I left the summer knowing that I had spent each day laughing and also learning. This year's JAG/AMC crew was something I'm extremely proud to be a part of and feel grateful for the skills I taught and learned from the crew.*



-Anna Steinhausen





# Youth Employment Partnerships

## NH-JAG YOUTH CREW

*I went into this season both nervous and excited to co-lead the JAG crew. While this was my second year of trail work with the AMC, it was my first year serving in a leadership position. This year's group did not disappoint. The students were hard-working and resilient and watching them grow and learn throughout the season was rewarding to see. Our crew had an interesting dynamic with over half of the students being second year returners and one student even coming back for a third year! This created an amazing opportunity for returning students to help teach first year students and to have everyone learning and growing together.*

*The crew ended up accomplishing quite a bit. We started the season out by performing critical maintenance on a few different trails including Mt. Jasper, the mountain behind Berlin High School that previous JAG crews have maintained over the years. The crew also had the chance to do project work at a number of different sites. We set rock stepping stones and water bars, built drainage structures, dismantled a hazardous bridge, and chipped away at a dangerous ledge on a snow mobile trail with a Forest Service ranger. During the middle of the season the crew took part in "career-week" where they talked to a wide-range of outdoor professionals including backcountry caretakers, researchers, hut crew members, the staff at the Mt. Washington Observatory, and a USFS mineralist. The crew ended the season back at Mt. Jasper building an impressive log ladder structure which was a personal favorite of mine.*

*However, the trail work we completed wasn't the only thing the crew accomplished this year. The students also underwent tremendous personal growth. At the beginning of the season many of the crew members struggled with hiking out to work sites and the more physically demanding aspects of trail work. Yet, it was during these more difficult times that returning students often jumped in with encouragement and assistance. There was one particular grueling hike up to a work site where a first year student was having an especially difficult time. Without being told to do so, the crew as a whole slowed down their pace and a few of the students who were more experienced hikers offered to take the struggling student's backpack and tools to lighten his load. Despite some days being physically challenging and pushing the limits of crew members, it was always exciting to see them show up the next day ready to work again. By the end of the season, the students who were struggling at the beginning were much more comfortable and confident in their skills and abilities.*

*It was also exciting to see the students' love for nature grow throughout the summer. They would often spend breaks looking around the forest for mushrooms, bugs, frogs, and interesting rocks. The Seek by iNaturalist app was popular amongst the crew and as the season progressed they became more and more knowledgeable about the species of plants and insects they encountered. Each of the students had a particular creature of interest and it was always fun to hear what they knew and to see them excited about the smaller aspects of nature.*



*While I'm sad to see the season end, I'm happy I had the chance to work with and co-lead such an incredible group of students. I know the skills they learned working on the JAG crew this year will last them a lifetime.*

*-Will Jackson*

We would like to thank the **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation** for supporting the AMC and the **Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation** for supporting JAG-NH. Their contributions allow us to continue our long-standing partnership!



# Volunteer Vacations

## White Mountain Volunteer Vacation

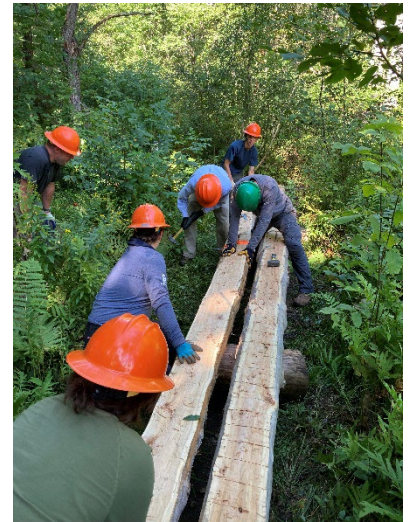
Our White Mountain Volunteer Vacation, based at Camp Dodge Trails Center, landed on a beautiful week in late August this year. The team was a great mixture of experienced and new members who worked together like a well-oiled machine. This week's mission was to build a bog bridge that was a bit lengthier than normal, which necessitated hand hewing stringers, cutting notches in each, pre-drilling and then bolting both puzzle pieces together once transported to our site. We had the added concern of keeping the old bog bridge in place until our new one was completely ready to be installed so as not to hinder hikers on their journey. Our volunteers were not at all deterred by the unconventionality of our project and accomplished this task with time to spare. After putting the finishing touches on our bog bridge, the group hiked up the trail to do a bit of drainage work on our quest to check out the views on a gorgeous summer day which was almost as lovely as our new structure.



Volunteers used hand tools to hew the top of each cedar log to create a flat walking surface.



Working together to carry the cedar logs across the Saco River to the project site



Assembling the bog bridge stringers in the field



The old bog bridge was clearly in need of replacement



A dynamite group of volunteers, with a new bog bridge to be very proud of!

**Dates:** August 21-24  
**Volunteers:** 6  
**Staff:** 3  
**Volunteer Hours:** 168  
**Accomplishments:** One 22' long bog bridge constructed out of cedar logs, 20 drainage structures cleaned





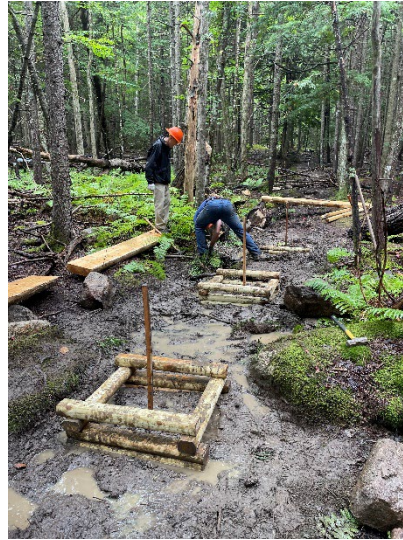
# Volunteer Vacations

## Acadia Volunteer Vacation Week 1

Crew 1 of our Acadia Volunteer Vacations knocked it out of the park. Our partner, NPS, provided us with a project replacing 25 bog walks on the Jordan Pond Carry Trail near Eagle Lake. The old bog walks didn't stand a chance against our 13-person volunteer crew and the removal process took just over an hour. Once removed, NPS flagged out where the new bog walks would be installed, this time by using wooden cribs of pressure treated wood as our base to make repairs easier in the future and to prolong the lifespan of the bog walk. We were digging against the rain for most of the week as Hurricane Lee barreled towards New England but the crew still managed to get 9 bog walks completed and the rest of the cribs installed before week's end.



Painstaking attention to detail resulted in sturdy, level bog walks



Pressure treated lumber was used to build up cribbing to support the cedar plank tread



The first section of bog walk completed connects to one of Acadia's popular carriage roads



The volunteers were working in very muddy conditions – the need for this bog walk structure was evident!



A beautiful stretch of completed bog walk!

**Dates:** September 11-14

**Volunteers:** 13

**Staff:** 3

**Volunteer Hours:** 286

**Accomplishments:** Old bog walk dismantled, temporary re-route around project area established, 28 new crib structures built, 9 new bog walks completed





# Volunteer Vacations

## Acadia Volunteer Vacation Week 2

Crew 2 of our Acadia Volunteer Vacations was small yet mighty and greatly benefitted from one member who was able to be with us for both weeks! Once the storm had passed, we set to work finishing the bog walks from the first week by adding stringers to the remaining 15 cribs. Then NPS, flagged out 3 shorter sections further up the Jordan Pond Carry Trail where we installed 8 more bog walks during the remainder of the week. Spirits were high and teamwork was an essential tool to installing these new bog walks. Many a hiker thanked us for the improvements we made on the trail and were thrilled to try the new bog walks as each section was completed!



Crew Leader Sophia Weisman-Rowell uses a chainsaw to cut the cedar planks so that they line up neatly



Working together to move a cedar plank into place



It's wonderful when a small group of people really get along and become a fun and efficient team!

**Dates:** September 18-21

**Volunteers:** 4

**Staff:** 2

**Volunteer Hours:** 104

**Accomplishments:** 24 new bog walks completed

## Volunteer Vacation Work Summary

Work Site	Trail	Staff (#)	Total staff hours	Volunteers (#)	Total volunteer hours	Length of Trail Worked On (ft.)
White Mountain National Forest	Davis Path	3	56	6	168	3,168
Acadia National Park	Jordan Pond Carry	3	104	17	390	1,590
<b>Volunteer Vacation Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>4,758</b>

We are grateful to the **Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund** for continuing to support our Volunteer Vacation programs in Acadia National Park!





# AMC Chapter Engagement

We are excited by the increase in engagement with AMC's chapters, and see many opportunities to continue growing staff and volunteer collaboration to accomplish trail projects throughout AMC's regions and to support trainings for chapters. Not included in this report was a very successful trail work weekend in AMC's Maine Woods, which was a collaboration between AMC's professional trail crew and the ME Chapter.

## Trail Work Crew Leader Training with Valley Forge National Historic Park

After postponement due to COVID-19, it was exciting to finally accomplish a much-anticipated training for new volunteers interested in leading trail work days at Valley Forge National Historic Park. Amanda Peterson traveled to PA to collaborate with NPS staff, Cait Handlin from AMC's PA office, and volunteers from the Delaware Valley Chapter to host a two-day training that covered park history, natural and cultural resources, NPS and AMC policies, trail work fundamentals, group safety and trail work leadership. Despite having to negotiate a rainy weekend, the volunteers persevered and ended the weekend ready to keep working together and with the NPS staff to hone their skills and engage the public on regular drainage structure maintenance work and check step installation.



The group was undeterred by the very soggy weather, and took the opportunity to hike the popular Wolfinger and Valley Creek Trail loop on Mt. Misery to assess the trail for drainage and erosion concerns.



Once the rain cleared on the second day, the group was able to get hands on practice with waterbar clearing and shaping.

**Dates:** April 29-30  
**Training Participants:** 8





# AMC Chapter Engagement

## Boston Chapter Climbing Committee BIPOC Climbing Event at Rumney Rocks



We were excited to kick off the trail work project at Rumney rock climbing area this summer with a morning volunteer project organized in conjunction with the AMC Boston chapter climbing committee's BIPOC climbing event. On Sunday morning, 17 volunteers pitched in at the American Alpine Club's campground to help load heavy timbers into the truck to be driven to the trailhead, then carry the timbers to the base of the 5.8 crag to away the AMC Pro Crew's arrival. This work gave the Pro Crew a head start on their summer-long project of building retaining walls to prevent erosion on steep slopes below popular climbs.



**Date:** June 11

**Volunteers:** 17

**Volunteer Hours:** 53

**Accomplishments:** 9 8"x8"x8' timbers were carried up to the base of the 5.8 crag and staged ahead of the Pro Crew's arrival.





# AMC Chapter Engagement

## Boston Chapter Trail Work Weekend at Camp Dodge

The July sunshine brought with it the AMC Boston Chapter who joined us in full force as a 17-person crew for a work weekend at Camp Dodge. We caravanned up the Mt. Washington Auto Road to the Northern side of Old Jackson Road where a mega crew of AmeriCorps and Teen Wilderness Adventurers had staged bog bridge materials the week before. Delighted to be making such a tangible improvement to the trail, our crew guided hikers safely around the work site as they climbed the AT during our work day. Spirits were high, as were the number of bog bridges installed that weekend—14 total! Since it was such a beautiful weekend and many of the crew members had never been to the peak of Mt. Washington, after buttoning up the project on Sunday morning we carried on up the Auto Road to enjoy the fantastic views and a time of reflection on our trail work project. We look forward to working with this chapter again next season to continue improving trails in the White Mountains!



Volunteers work together to dismantle old deteriorated bog bridges



Removing old bog bridges and making way for new



Volunteers were just a bit muddy but very proud after completing a beautiful new set of bog bridges

**Dates:** July 8-9

**Volunteers:** 17

**Volunteer Hours:** 85

**Accomplishments:** 14 Bog bridges installed





# AMC Chapter Engagement

## AMC Young Members Weekend at Noble View



Thick vegetation had overgrown sections of the trail in only a few months since construction

There has been a tremendous growth in interest among AMC's 20's and 30's groups in doing trail work projects together – a trend we are excited to see continue! This summer, ten participants traveled to Noble View for a weekend of socializing and improving the new All Person's Trail. This trail project had been started earlier in the spring by AMC's professional trail crew, and a section of the new trail through a meadow had dramatically overgrown with vegetation. To help ensure that the trail remains accessible, the young members volunteers cut back the encroaching vegetation, dug up roots along side the trail tread, covered both edges of the trail with weed barrier fabric topped by straw mulch. Through two nearly full days of work in the sun, 325 linear feet of trail was re-opened and had weed barrier applied.



The crew had fun making time lapse videos of the project. The camera mounted on a tripod for this purpose also gave us a great opportunity for a group photo.



At the end of the weekend, the trail was once again accessible and hopefully vegetation will be deterred from encroaching once again

**Dates:** August 26-27

**Volunteers:** 10

**Volunteer Hours:** 106

**Accomplishments:** 325 linear feet of trail was brushed out and had weed barrier applied





# Custom Crews and One-Day Programs

## Youth Engagement at Cardigan

### Camp Mowglis

In June, we hosted 26 Camp Mowglis Staff members for a trail work training day at Cardigan Lodge. We started the morning with a safety and tool talk led by Dom Walker & Jared Kannel (Volunteer Program Leaders) and Anna Steinhausen & Will Jackson (JAG Leaders) before splitting into 4 groups to patrol local trails around the lodge including: Woodland, Clark, Manning, Back 80, and Holt. This set the camp staff up well to begin their Summer season and guide campers to take care of the trails as they hike, camp and adventure in the forest.

A week later we welcomed back the 'Yearlings' from Camp Mowglis, a 7-person crew of 15-16 year olds, to install 5 new bog walks near the beginning of the Woodland Trail as the old bog walks on that trail were history. The crew jumped into the task with gusto and learned some valuable problem-solving skills as they worked together to set the base logs at the correct depth and align the stringers so that each set of bog walk met the next one beautifully. Near the end of the day rocks were quarried from the woods to make steppingstones for the end of our muddy section making it easily passable for hikers once again.

**Dates:** June 20, 30  
**Number of Volunteers:** 33  
**Volunteer Hours:** 140  
**Accomplishments:**  
Basic maintenance completed on 3.8 miles of trail  
53 drains cleared  
6 stepping stones placed  
4 blowdowns cleared  
5 bog bridges built

### Teen Wilderness Adventures

AMC's Teen Wilderness Adventures program includes a day of trail work in each of their week-long adventures throughout the Summer, these trail work days were led by Dom Walker on trails in WMNF and at AMC's Cardigan Lodge. Each teen is provided with PPE and trained on tools and safety before heading onto the trail to provide some basic maintenance which could be anything from lopping back vegetation from the trail corridor, clearing and reshaping drainages, clearing blowdowns from the trail or redefining trails by closing off social (non-designated) trails. This year some of the TWA crews were able to work alongside our AmeriCorps members in cutting and staging materials for future trail projects and repairing a bridge near Pinkham Notch. Each teen crew brought lots of questions and curiosity with them as they learned what trail work is all about, how to work in an outdoor environment and teamwork skills.

**Dates:** June 28, July 3,17,31, August 2,7  
**Number of Volunteers:** 68  
**Volunteer Hours:** 223.5  
**AmeriCorps Members:** 20  
**AmeriCorps Hours:** 72  
**Accomplishments:**  
3500 ft corridor cleared  
44 drains cleared  
Materials for bog bridges cut, moved and staged  
Old bog bridge material dispersed



# Custom Crews and One-Day Programs

## Hopkinton Interact Club

Our last custom crew of the season was the Hopkinton Middle High School Interact Club, having just started the school year the students were ripe with energy and ready to tackle the project even though most had never done any sort of trail work before. The students discovered a low, muddy spot on the Woodland Trail where they built a set of 2 bog walks on Saturday afternoon, went for a quick hike towards Welton Falls before dinner and finished out the day with a bonfire and s'mores. On Sunday morning we went up the Back 80 Trail where the students identified 2 spots where a bog walk could be useful and unanimously voted to use the time they had left on their trip to build a bog walk in the muddiest location. They recognized the erosion that was already being caused and felt that a bog walk had to be installed there, as one student pointed out, 'For the people!'

**Dates:** September 30- October 1

**Number of Volunteers:** 12

**Volunteer Hours:** 80

**Accomplishments:**

3 bog bridges built

15 stepping stones



Volunteers lay out base logs for the bog bridges



Volunteers fasten the stringers to the baselogs



The group of volunteers poses with a finished bridge





# Custom Crews and One-Day Programs

## One Day Events

### Old Bridle Path

This year, the AMC volunteer trails department worked with the World Trails Network and New Hampshire State Parks to hold 4 volunteer days on the Old Bridle Path, on NHSP land. Volunteers came from all over New England and came from many different organizations and places. This is part of a large restoration project on the Franconia Loop trail with many different partner organizations to improve one of the most popular hiking trails in the Northeast. The trail is being rerouted in many places in order to make it more sustainable for the use that it gets. Volunteers cut vegetation for these reroutes, removed organic material and hardened the tread with mineral soil, and improved the tread so it would be the desired grade. Thank you to Andy Crowley from NHSP and Bob White from the WTN who helped provide leadership for these work days. Their enthusiasm and engagement was a big hit with the volunteers.

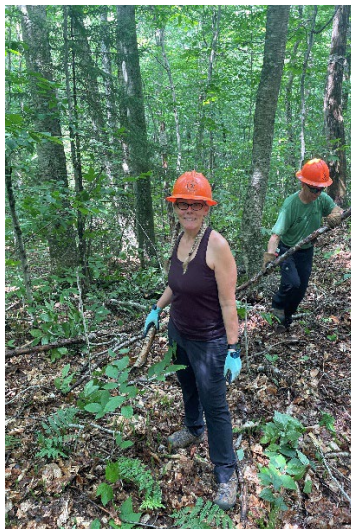


Above: A section of tread improved by volunteers

Bottom Left: A group of volunteers hike to the worksite

Bottom Center: Volunteers clear vegetation on a relocation

Bottom Right: A volunteer excavates organic material to improve the tread.



Dates	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	AMC Staff	Staff Hours	AmeriCorps Members	AmeriCorps Hours	Accomplishments
7/15	16	96	1	9	1	8	1480 ft vegetation cleared
7/29	14	84	2	18	0	0	250 ft tread improved
8/6	17	102	1	9	3	27	1750 ft vegetation cleared
8/19	18	108	2	18	1	9	500 ft tread improved





# Custom Crews and One-Day Programs

## Lancaster Training Day

On October 14, Nora Sackett, Pro Crew leader Ian Ayer, and Alex DeLucia, AMC's Director of Trails led 8 volunteers from the town of Lancaster in a trail work day on the Lancaster Town Forest. The Lancaster Conservation Commission and the Northern Forest Center to develop a recreation trail network on the town forest for the community. The day was spent clearing a trail that will be used to access the town forest, and then began clearing a section of new trail on the town forest as well. Volunteers used swizzle sticks to clear overgrown grass and bushes, and handsaws and loppers to clear 0.5 miles of trail. More work is planned in 2024 to complete the Lancaster Town Forest recreational trail network.

**Dates:** October 14  
**Number of Volunteers:** 8  
**Volunteer Hours:** 40  
**Accomplishments:** .5 miles of trail cleared



Volunteer clears grass with a swizzle stick on the town forest



Volunteers clear brush with handsaws and loppers on the access trail





# Adopt-a-Trail Program

## White Mountains, Cardigan and Maine Woods

2023 was another successful year for our White Mountain, Cardigan and Maine Woods Adopt-a-Trail program. This year we continued to include our collaborative training video in addition to our in person trainings, having participants watch the video ahead of time. The video can be found online at <https://vimeo.com/695762598>.

We hosted 6 Basic Skills training days (two of which were in conjunction with the Trail Skills College event at Camp Dodge in May), and one Alpine Skills training. In total, 68 volunteers attended training with us this year.

Trail adopters were very active this year! 110 adopters, along with the help of 111 other volunteers (these include friends or family who accompanied an adopter, as well as volunteers who participated in work days organized by adopters who are AMC chapter trip leaders) accomplished 174 miles of basic maintenance on hiking and ski trails, and gave more than 2,240 hours for the trails. A summary of adopter work by trail is included in the following pages.



Above: Volunteers rebuild a cairn during the Alpine Skills training day



Left: Volunteers use tools to build up a berm on a rock water bar at Basic Skills training during the Trail Skills College in May with the AMC and White Mountain National Forest (photo credit, Robin Lemmerz)

**Dates:** January 1- November 18 2023

**Number of Volunteers:** 221

**Accomplishments:** 174 miles of trail maintained

327548 ft of corridor cleared

763 blowdowns cleared

53 cairns repaired

9 cairns built

1085 ft of screewall repaired



# Adopt-a-Trail Program

Below is a summary of all work completed by Adopt-a-Trail volunteers in 2023.

\*Denotes Alpine trail, drainage and brushing not applicable

\*\*Denotes Ski trail, drainage not applicable

Trail Name (Section)	Section Length (Miles)	% of Brushing Completed	% of Drainage Completed	Land Manager
AMC Stewardship Trail	0.2	40%	100%	AMC
93Z Extension Ski Trail **	0.5	100%		AMC Cardigan Reservation
All Person's Trail	0.5	50%	100%	
Back 80 Loop	0.8	75%		
Back 80 Trail (Manning Trail - Cellar Hole/Back 80 Loop Jct.)	1	100%	100%	
Link Ski Trail **	1.2	100%		
Manning Trail (Cardigan Lodge - Allieway Ski Trail)	0.8	100%	100%	
Nature Trail 1	0.5			
Nature Trail 2	0.4	100%	100%	
Short Circuit Ski Trail **	0.4	100%		
Whitney Way Ski Trail **	0.8	100%	50%	
Woodland Trail (Cardigan Lodge - Clark Trail)	0.7	100%	100%	
Allieway Ski Trail **	1.1	100%		AMC Cardigan Reservation, NHDNCR Cardigan Mountain State Forest
Back 80 Trail (Cellar Hole/Back 80 Loop Jct. - Elwell Trail)	1.4	20%	70%	
Duke's Ski Trail **	1.1	90%		
Kimball Ski Trail **	1.4	90%		
93Z Ski Trail **	1.4	100%		AMC Cardigan Reservation, Welton Falls State Forest
Alexandria Ski Trail **	0.6	100%		NHDNCR Cardigan Mountain State Forest
Bailey Brook Ski Trail **	0.4	100%		
Clark Trail (Holt-Clark Cutoff - South Ridge Trail)	0.7	100%	75%	
Clark Trail (Second Woodland Tr Junction - Holt-Clark Cutoff)	1.1	100%	100%	
Holt Trail (Grand Junction - Mt. Cardigan Summit)	1.1	100%	100%	
Vistamont Trail (Clark Trail - Skyland Trail)	1	100%	100%	
Vistamont Trail (Grand Junction - Clark Trail)	0.6	100%	100%	
Holt Trail (Manning Trail - Grand Junction)	0.9	100%	100%	
Lower Manning Trail (Cardigan Lodge - Old Dicey Road)	1.5	100%	100%	NHDNCR Welton Falls State Forest
Goose Eye	3.2	75%	100%	Maine Bureau of Parks and Land
Mahoosuc (Goose Eye Tr. - Full Goose Campsite)	2.6	100%	100%	
Notch	2.2	70%	70%	
Old Speck (Rt. 26 - Upper Eyebrow Tr. Jct)	1.1	100%	100%	
Wright (South Fork)	1.9	70%		
Wright (Trail Head Parking - Wright Trail Tentsite)	2.5	70%		
Speck Pond (May Cutoff (north) - Speck Pond Campsite)	0.5	75%	100%	





# Adopt-a-Trail Program

Trail Name (Section)	Section Length (Miles)	% of Brushing Completed	% of Drainage Completed	Land Manager
Around-Lonesome-Lake	0.3	100%	100%	NHDNCR Franconia Notch State Park
Greenleaf (Tramway Parking - Eagle Cliff)	1.5	100%	100%	
Webster-Jackson (Rt. 302 (Crawford Notch) - The Fork)	1.4	100%	100%	NHDNCR Crawford Notch State Park
Gorman Loop	3.8	90%	100%	AMC Maine Woods
Henderson Brook Trail	1.5	100%	100%	
Laurie's Ledge Trail	0.9	100%	100%	
Long Pond Trail (Gorman Chairback - Outlet of Long Pond)	4.2	100%	100%	
Grafton Loop (Sargent Brook Tentsite - Miles Notch)	2.3	80%	50%	Private
Peabody Brook (Trailhead - Giant Falls Spur)	1.2	100%	100%	
Speck Pond (Success Pond Rd. - Sharp Turn)	1.4	100%	75%	
Success	2.4	100%	100%	
Air Line (Cutoff - Mt. Adams Summit)	0.8	100%	100%	WMNF Androscoggin Ranger District
Air Line (Scar Tr. - Cutoff)	1.1	90%	100%	
Air Line Cutoff	0.2	100%	100%	
Alpine Garden	1.8	100%	100%	
Avalanche Brook Ski (2nd Ski Bridge - Rocky Branch Tr.)**	1.2	100%		
Avalanche Brook Ski (Glen Boulder Tr. - 2nd Ski Bridge)**	2.1	100%		
Avalanche Brook Ski (Rocky Branch Tr. - Forest Road 623)**	1.1	100%		
Blanchard Loop, The Link, and Go Back Ski **	1.1	60%		
Boott Spur (Ravine Outlook - Davis Path)	1.2	100%	100%	
Boott Spur (Tuckerman Ravine Tr. - Ravine Outlook)	1.7	100%	100%	
Boott Spur Link	0.6	100%	100%	
Caps Ridge (Jefferson road - The Link Tr.)	1.1	100%	90%	
Caps Ridge (The Link Tr. - Summit Mt. Jefferson)	1.4	100%	90%	
Carter-Moriah (Carter Dome - 19 Mile Brook Jct.)	1.2	100%	100%	
Carter-Moriah (Gorham/Bangor Rd. - Mt. Surprise)	2.1	80%	100%	
Carter-Moriah (Middle Carter - Zeta Pass)	2.1	20%	20%	
Castle (Rt. 2 - The Link)	3.5	100%	100%	
Castle (The Link - Mt. Jefferson)	2.6	100%	100%	
Connie's Way Ski **	2.5	95%		
Crew Cut	1	50%	50%	
George's Gorge	0.8	90%		
Glen Boulder (Glen Boulder - Davis Path Jct.)	1.6	70%	100%	
Glen Boulder (Rt. 16 - Glen Boulder)	1.6	85%	85%	
Huntington Ravine (Tuckerman Ravine Tr. - First Aid Cache)	1.3	100%	100%	



# Adopt-a-Trail Program

Trail Name (Section)	Section Length (Miles)	% of Brushing Completed	% of Drainage Completed	Land Manager
Lawn Cutoff	0.4	100%	100%	WMNF Androscoggin Ranger District
Lion Head (Lion Head -Tuckerman Ravine (Upper))	0.7	100%	100%	
Lion Head (Tuckerman Ravine - Lion Head (Lower))	0.9	100%	100%	
Lost Pond	0.9	100%	100%	
Mt. Clay Loop *	1.2	100%		
Mt. Jefferson Loop	0.7	25%	25%	
Nelson Crag (Old Jackson Rd. - Auto Rd./Cragway Turn)	1.7	100%		
Nineteen-Mile Brook (Carter Dome Tr - Carter Notch Hut)	1.9		70%	
Nineteen-Mile Brook (Trailhead - Carter Dome Tr)	1.9	100%	80%	
Osgood (Daniel Webster Tr. - Madison Hut)*	1			
Osgood (Great Gulf Tr. - Osgood Cutoff)	0.8	100%	100%	
Osgood Cutoff	0.6	100%	100%	
Pine Link (Dolly Copp Rd. - Lower Howker Ridge Tr. Jct.)	2.4	80%	90%	
Pine Link (Lower Jct. Howker Ridge Tr. - Madison Hut)*	1.6			
Pinkham Notch Ski **	0.5	100%		
Raymond Path	2.4	100%	100%	
Southside *	0.3			
Square Ledge	0.5	100%	100%	
Valley Way (Trailhead - Scar Trail)	2.1	90%	100%	
Wamsutta*	1.7	10%		
Wildcat Ridge (Rt. 16 - Gondola (Wildcat D))	2.1	100%	95%	WMNF Androscoggin District, NHDNCR Mt. Washington State Park
Nelson Crag (Auto Rd./Cragway Turn - Mt. Washington Summit)*	1.9	30%	100%	
Around the Lake	1.2	100%	100%	WMNF Pemigewasset Ranger District
Avalon (Crawford Depot - A-Z Tr.)	1.3	100%	100%	
A-Z (Avalon Tr. - Willey Range Tr.)	1	90%	95%	
A-Z (Willey Range Tr. - Zealand Tr.)	2.7	0%	33%	
Bondcliff (Lincoln Woods - Sharp Right (Camp 16))	1.8	90%	100%	
Bondcliff (Sharp Right (Camp 16) - 3rd Stream Crossing)	2.5	15%	0%	
Carrigain Notch (Nancy Pond Trail - Stillwater Jct.)	1.6	100%	100%	
Ethan Pond (Shoal Pond Tr. - Zealand Tr.)	2.6	80%	80%	
Falling Waters (Highest Brook Crossing - Franconia Ridge Tr./Little Haystack Summit)	1.6		2%	
Flume Slide (1st Flume Brook Crossing - Franconia Ridge Tr.)	1.4		50%	
Franconia Ridge (Falling Waters Tr./Little Haystack Summit - Mt. Lafayette Summit)*	1.6			
Franconia Ridge (Flume Slide Tr. - Liberty Spring Tr.)	1.5	50%	10%	
Greenleaf (Eagle Cliff - Greenleaf Hut)	1.2	100%	90%	





# Adopt-a-Trail Program

Trail Name (Section)	Section Length (Miles)	% of Brushing Completed	% of Drainage Completed	Land Manager
Greenleaf (Greenleaf Hut - Mt. Lafayette Summit)*	1.1			WMNF Pemigewasset Ranger District
Hancock Loop (N. Hancock Summit - Loop Jct. (via S. Hancock))	1.9	75%	90%	
Kinsman Ridge (Reel Brook Tr. - South Kinsman Summit)	3.5	15%	5%	
Kinsman Ridge (Rt. 112 - Gordon Pond Tr.)	3.3	50%	50%	
Kinsman Ridge (South Kinsman Summit - Kinsman Jct.)	1.5	100%	100%	
Lend-A-Hand	2.7	25%	100%	
Mt. Monroe Loop*	0.7			
Mt. Tom Spur	0.6	85%	100%	
Osseo (Lincoln Woods Trail - First Switchback)	2.1	50%		
Twinway (Bondcliff Tr. - Zealand Mt. Spur)	1.3	100%	80%	
Twinway (Galehead Hut - South Twin Summit)	0.8	100%	100%	
Twinway (South Twin Summit - Bondcliff Tr.)	2	100%	100%	
Twinway (Zeacliff Tr. - Zealand Tr.)	1.5	95%	100%	
Twinway (Zealand Mt. Spur - Zeacliff Tr.)	1.6	100%	95%	
Indian Head	1.9	10%	10%	WMNF Pemigewasset Ranger District. NHDNCR Franconia Notch State Park
Liberty Spring (Bike Path - Sharp Left Turn)	1.4	50%	50%	
Cascade Brook (Liberty Spring/Whitehouse - Basin Cascades)	1.6	100%	100%	
Flume Slide (Liberty Spring Tr. - 1st Flume Brook Crossing)	1.9	95%		
Basin Rim (Mt. Meader - Rim Jct.)	1.4	100%	100%	WMNF Saco Ranger District
Davis Path (Rt. 302 Parking - Mt. Crawford Summit)	2.5	100%	90%	
Davis Path (Mt. Crawford Spur - Stairs Col Tr.)	1.8		80%	
Iron Mountain	2	100%	100%	
Meader Ridge	2	85%	85%	
Mizpah Cutoff	0.7	100%	80%	
Mount Meader	3	100%	100%	
Royce (ME Rt. 113 - Laughing Lion Tr.)	2.7	90%	100%	
Saco Lake	0.3	100%	100%	
Webster Cliff (Mt. Webster Summit - Mt. Jackson Summit)	1.4	100%	100%	
Webster-Jackson (The Fork - Mt. Jackson Summit)	1.2	95%	90%	
Wildcat River (Trailhead/Bog Brook Jct. - Wild River Tr.)	1.9	100%	100%	

\*Denotes Alpine trail, drainage and brushing not applicable

\*\*Denotes Ski trail, drainage not applicable

