



# Appalachian Mountain Club

## 2017 Outdoor Program Center Volunteering

**Our volunteers** are passionate about helping people enjoy the outdoors and learn about the natural world. The AMC has a variety of volunteer opportunities at our Outdoor Program Centers, including **Information Volunteers**, **Volunteer Naturalists**, **Program Volunteers**, and **Volunteer Alpine Stewards**.

**Information Volunteers** greet guests in a friendly manner, orient them to the facility, and offer advice about hiking trails, outdoor gear, and activity programming. They provide information about conservation and natural history; assist with retail sales; promote AMC membership; and may lead indoor programs. Volunteers at lakeside lodges also help guests with boats and waterfront equipment. Information Volunteers typically arrive late afternoon on Friday, and depart late morning on Sunday. Essential qualifications include experience hiking nearby trails; an outgoing, friendly personality; familiarity with the facility where they are volunteering; knowledge about maps, outdoor gear, and backcountry safety; and the ability to communicate effectively with a diverse group of AMC guests and staff.

### Information Volunteer Locations and Seasons

Mohican Outdoor Center – weekends, mid-June through mid-October

Harriman Outdoor Center – weekends, mid-May through mid-October

Cardigan Lodge – weekends, July through mid-October

6 Backcountry Huts – weekends, May through mid-October

Gorman Chairback Lodge – daily July & August, Thurs-Sun September

Highland Center – weekends year-round, daily mid-June through mid-October, and daily during school vacation weeks

Pinkham Notch Visitor Center - same schedule at Highland Center



**Volunteer Naturalists** draw on their own expertise to provide outreach in AMC backcountry huts, primarily by sharing information about local natural history during evening programs. Naturalists can offer a variety of programs over a few days, or focus on just one or two topics; they can gear their programs toward kids, adults, or both. Sample program topics include pond ecology, White Mountain weather, beaver adaptations, boreal forest walks, history of the Zealand Valley, and alpine plant communities. In addition to evening programs, Volunteer Naturalists offer short talks after breakfast, help guests with hike planning, and may offer afternoon nature walks. Volunteer Naturalists typically arrive late afternoon on Sunday, and depart late morning on Wednesday. Essential qualifications include experience hiking White Mountain trails; an outgoing, friendly personality; experience leading talks or group activities; and the ability to plan and deliver natural history programs. Naturalists interested in offering nature walks or other outdoor programming need current Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification, as well as AMC's Risk Management & Leadership training.



\*The Program Volunteer role at Highland and Pinkham is also a great fit for many Volunteer Naturalists.

### Volunteer Naturalist Locations and Seasons

All 8 Backcountry Huts – Sunday through Wednesday, June through mid-September or mid-October

**Program Volunteers** help with “Walk-on Programs” by leading short guided hikes or nature walks, engaging with guests using hands-on educational displays at “Table Talks,” and leading other activities. Walk-on Programs are free and open to the public; participants often includes families with children and novice hikers. Essential qualifications for Program Volunteers leading Walk-on Programs include prior experience hiking nearby trails; an outgoing, friendly personality; knowledge about outdoor gear and backcountry safety; and current Wilderness First Aid and CPR, and AMC’s Risk Management & Leadership training.

#### **Program Volunteer (Walk-on Programs) Locations and Seasons**

Highland Center – daily, July and August and during school vacation weeks, and some fall/winter/spring weekends

Pinkham Notch Visitor Center – weekends, July and August, daily during school vacation weeks, and some fall/winter/spring weekends



**Volunteer Alpine Stewards** provide outreach education to help protect the fragile alpine ecosystem above tree line. As they hike along the Franconia Ridge and on Mt. Washington summit conetrails, Stewards engage with hikers about Leave No Trace principles, alpine ecology, trail conditions, and backcountry safety. Stewards monitor alpine plants at designated research plots and collect data for AMC’s Mountain Watch. These volunteers may perform light trail maintenance and are welcome to help with evening programs. Alpine Stewards typically arrive late afternoon on Friday, and depart late morning on Sunday. The Volunteer Alpine Steward Program is a partnership between the Appalachian Mountain Club, the White Mountain National Forest, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Essential qualifications include prior experience hiking White Mountain trails, especially above treeline; an outgoing, friendly personality; an understanding of Leave No Trace principles; and current Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications.

#### **Volunteer Alpine Steward Locations and Seasons**

Mt. Washington – weekends, late May through mid-September (meals & lodging at Pinkham)

Franconia Ridge – weekends, mid-May through mid-October (meals & lodging at Greenleaf Hut)



### **Key Aspects Common to All Outdoor Program Center Volunteer Programs**

- **Benefits:** Volunteers receive free meals and lodging while they are volunteering, as well as retail discounts. *\*Overnight lodging will not be available to Harriman Volunteers during the 2017 season.*
- **Time Commitment:** Volunteers commit to serving at least 32 hours per year, for at least three years. Volunteers are expected to serve approximately 16 hours over the course of a typical weekend of volunteering.
- **Training:** Participate in a mandatory training weekend every spring for the first three years as a volunteer. 2017 trainings will be held in New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Maine. New Volunteers must attend the training closest to their volunteer location(s). There is a fee for the training weekend.
- **Other Requirements:** Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and pass an annual criminal background check.
- **Application Process:** Request an application from [amcvolservices@outdoors.org](mailto:amcvolservices@outdoors.org) . Apply in early winter. Phone interviews will follow. The application process can be competitive – the number of new volunteers is limited each year, based on anticipated needs and AMC’s capacity to provide training.

**To learn more about AMC’s volunteer programs, please contact the Outdoor Program Centers Volunteer Coordinator at [amcvolservices@outdoors.org](mailto:amcvolservices@outdoors.org) or 603-278-3820.**