

Shelter Watcher Job Description

The Leroy Smith Shelter, built in 1972, is a dressed timber structure with eight sleeping spaces, accommodating more on the floor. Adjacent to it is a composting privy and an established tenting and hammocking camp site. The shelter is located one mile north on the Katellen trail and about 1,000 feet from the Little Gap to Wind Gap section of the Appalachian trail. Three springs are located adjacent to the trail below the shelter. For directions to the State Game Lands Parking lot, type in Leroy Smith Shelter in Goggle Maps and the parking lot will show up for the Katellen trail beginning one mile up to the shelter.

The volunteer Shelter Watchers check the shelter, composting privy, the adjacent camp site and the three lower springs, remove debris from the sites, enter shelter check date and any comments for hikers (weather, conditions, etc) in the Logbook at the shelter, and post their findings on a prepaid card mailed to the Shelter Chair. The hike up to and return to the State Game Lands parking lot average 3-4 hours on foot with additional auto miles to and from the parking lot and the return home. The Shelter Chair submits a report for the DV-AMC's annual meeting which names the year's Watchers.

The Shelter Watchers with dates are identified on printed Summer and Winter watch schedules which are mailed to each Watcher before May 1 and December 1.

A Watcher must be 18 years old and drive or have a licensed driver to and from the Katellen trail's State Game Lands Parking lot. Junior Watchers able to hike the trail often accompany the Watcher and are acknowledged on the Watcher's list in the Annual Report.

We need to add volunteers to the Watch team to replace retiring Watchers — some of whom have “watched” for over 20 years! If you are willing to serve as a Shelter Watcher, contact Shelter Chair Pat Sacks at

(610) 437-3227 or sackspa@ptd.net