

# Konnarock Trail Crew Volunteer Job Description

The Konnarock Trail Crew tackles large-scale projects and focuses on trail relocations and tread rehabilitation. The crew is active from May through mid-August, working on projects that can be located between Springer Mountain, GA and Rockfish Gap in VA. Trail Crew work weeks typically last for five days.

## **TRAIL WORK IS HARD, PHYSICAL LABOR**

It may involve working with hand tools, power tools or power equipment; getting dirty is guaranteed. The crew works eight- or nine-hour days, rain or shine, hot or cold, regardless of annoyances of insects. Crew members must be able to live and work cooperatively and in close proximity to fellow volunteers of all genders, ages, and backgrounds. Hikes into the project site from camping areas or trailheads can be up to 3 miles (one way). All crew members are expected to participate equally in routine tasks, including cooking, cleaning, and tool care, both at base camp and the project site.

## **BASE CAMP**

For most crew weeks, volunteers gather at base camp in Southwest Virginia for introductions and orientation the day before departing for the project location. Base camp includes dining and recreation facilities, a shower/bath house, laundry, and simple cabins.

Once at the project location, accommodations vary, but range from primitive backcountry tent camps to tenting in developed campgrounds to enclosed cabins. With the primitive backcountry experience, volunteers can expect to be without showers, bathrooms, or running water for the duration of their week.

Once you arrive at the base camp, shelter, food, transportation to and from project sites, tools, safety equipment, and group camping gear are provided. Crew members need to bring enthusiasm, a good attitude, work clothing, sturdy boots, any of their own available basic camping gear and personal items such as toiletries, towels, pillows, headlamps, etc.

## **ESSENTIAL VOLUNTEER FUNCTIONS**

Volunteers spend five consecutive days and four nights working in a variety of conditions. Project locations range from front country to more remote backcountry locations, often far from medical facilities. Volunteers are expected to perform physically demanding manual labor in mild to intense weather conditions – rain or shine, hot or cold. In addition to trail work activities, volunteers also actively contribute to community chores, support crew staff and fellow volunteers, and always practice Leave No Trace.

Essential functions may include:

- Traveling without assistance over uneven, variable terrain, including but not limited to flat, uphill, and downhill, with varying trail width, where obstructions include rocks, roots steps, water bars, log bridges, slick surfaces, streams, muddy areas, or standing water.

- Carrying of personal and group gear, as well as tools and safety equipment, which combined could weigh between 20-50 lbs. for up to 3 miles.
- Performing trail work tasks that include but are not limited to lifting 50 lbs. of weight, swinging hand tools, cutting annual growth, raking or digging out drains, installing erosion control features, moving heavy logs or rocks, vegetation clearing, tread definition or side hill bench construction, constructing rock steps, waterbars, cribbing, shutting down user-created/social trails, and extensive rockwork. Use of handtools, construction equipment, and PPE (hardhat, safety glasses, work gloves, shin guards) will occur daily.
- Sharing in duties at field camp for the project associated with preparing, cooking, and cleaning up from meals, maintaining sanitation at camp and worksite, cleaning and storing group tools and gear, and other tasks to cooperatively share in work of the entire crew
- Follow direction, instruction, and training from crew staff regarding safety, crew management, and implementing trailwork.
- Be a team player and willing to contribute to all aspects of the crew.
- Volunteers not able to meet qualifications, requirements, or essential functions at any point may be dismissed.

In addition to those functions, volunteers who see the greatest success:

- have an enthusiasm for the experience
- possess an ability to get along with and work cooperatively with others
- keep safety top of mind
- have a desire to work hard

### **QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

Volunteers must be physically and mentally ready for the challenges of crew life.

- Ability to perform essential functions of the position listed above.
- Respect, understand, and follow instructions from crew leaders.
- Understand and apply the training you receive for associated trail work and safety practices.
- Communicate well with others, resolve conflicts effectively, and promote positive interpersonal relationships.

### **THE ATC WILL PROVIDE**

- All necessary tools and training on their use
- Loaner camping gear (as available)
- Professional Trail crew leaders
- Plenty of high-energy food
- Off-day housing for multi-week volunteers, excluding during extended crew breaks
- Transportation to and from the Trailhead