

{{Club Name}}

Volunteer Liaison

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is cared for by thousands of people, hundreds of organizations/agencies, and passes through a variety of diverse landscapes. Volunteers, coordinated in large part through A.T. Clubs, provide on-the-ground knowledge, experience, and operational capacity. Alongside a variety of partners, volunteers work together to manage and protect a long-distance hiking trail that connects a patchwork of conserved lands and communities along a massive migration corridor that exits along the spine of the ancient Appalachian Mountain range.

The purpose of the Volunteer Liaison is to foster connections between the Appalachian Trail, {{Club Name}}, as well as communities of hikers, nature-lovers, and adjacent community members. This position serves to:

1. Build stronger connections between your Clubs' scheduled volunteer activities and the broader hiking community, neighboring areas, and potential volunteers.
2. Bring additional capacity for volunteer engagement by promoting club volunteer opportunities and open positions to the A.T. Volunteer Engagement Platform, and other cross-promotion platforms.
3. Assist your club with marketing and communications in elevating awareness for and participation in volunteerism.
4. Support bridging different generations of volunteers by being a connector of people at projects.

Responsibilities:

- Work with the Club activity leaders and the Club volunteer engagement leader to collect information on upcoming A.T. events.
- Convey event details through electronic and digital channels for promotion.
- Recruit volunteers by raising public awareness for the A.T. Club in local and regional networks.
- If assigned by activity leader, serve as the 'welcome wagon' to connect with new volunteers after initial signup to welcome them, answer questions, and set expectations.
- Draft social media posts, newsletter content, or other stories to capture the importance of specific work accomplished, or volunteerism specifically. Share to Club media managers/editors and Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC).
- Connect with volunteers on projects by supporting their pursuit of education, training, communication, or mentoring.
- Support field leaders by being a club ambassador for events by:
 - Providing a welcome to volunteers at the Trailhead. Introduce people and spark opportunities for deeper connection.
 - Joining the crew at worksite as a participant, if possible. If not, you may set up post-work trip refreshments to greet the crew on their return.

- Take or collect photos of participants during the scheduled activities to share with the community at large or in follow up reports to participating volunteers.
- Socialize with volunteers throughout the work-trip, support group cohesion and morale.
- Support opportunities for volunteer feedback.
- Ensure follow-up with new volunteers with a written report on the days' activities providing a thank you to volunteers explaining the importance of their work. Ask participants to share their accomplishments to their communities and invite a friend to join them on their next activity with the Club.
- Other duties, as schedule permits, or as assigned.

Term:

This is a 2-3 year position with the option to extend the position duration if desired. Each project requires 3-5 hours over 2 months, plus any participation in the event as an ambassador. Volunteer Liaisons may undertake more than one project at a time, based on their availability.

Benefits:

- Undertake projects as Volunteer Liaison when it suits your availability. Tasks may be completed on a flexible schedule.
- Support Club activity leaders, new volunteers, and existing volunteers to have positive experiences.
- Gain a better understanding of trail maintenance and ecological preservation.
- Spend time in nature.
- Pride in being an essential part of maintaining the volunteer legacy of the A.T.
- Opportunities for published work on the story of the A.T.
- Exposure to career development opportunities and networking in the field of conservation.

Available Training & Resources:

- Technical advice from ATC's Volunteer Development Coordinator
- Partner [resources for volunteer coordination](#)
- [Welcoming New Volunteers](#) resource
- Training on cross-promotion of volunteer opportunities to the A.T. Volunteer Engagement Platform

Qualifications:

- Skilled communicator, with reliable email communications.
- Excellent social media skills.
- Understanding or willingness to learn about trail maintenance and ecological preservation.
- Ability to learn about the different kinds of volunteer activities and respective safety equipment.
- Willingness to learn, follow, and teach the appropriate work standards, techniques, and safety procedures.

- Familiarity with the A.T. preferred, but not required.
- Capable of hiking over variable terrain, in changing weather conditions preferred, but not required.

Requirements:

- Willingness to furnish photo publication rights to the organizational partners, for use in print and online.
- Familiarity with word processing programs, web technology, and Google Drive platforms.

If interested in this volunteer position, please contact the {{Club Name}} for more information. Feel free to reach out to the ATC at volunteer@appalachiantrail.org for assistance with connecting to the club.