

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

There are many ways you can contribute to making the making the North Country National Scenic Trail through the Allegheny National Forest the best 100 miles of trail and the host of a great trail community! Each of us has our own special talents. How can you contribute? Email us at [anf@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:anf@northcountrytrail.org) to volunteer, ask questions or give us suggestions.

**General Volunteers** help out at work days, events, group hikes, and provide reports on the conditions of the trail (see Trail Walkers below).

**Organizers** plan and carry out events, including group hikes, backpack trips, trail celebrations, work days and the Allegheny-100 Backpacking Challenge.

**Hike Leaders** are responsible for planning the route of the hike, the safety of the group when hiking, including designating a sweep and making sure the group is hiking at a comfortable pace.

**Publicity** is a critical aspect of informing the public and our members about the chapter and its events. People are needed to post events to Facebook, Meetup and the Google Calendar. We also submit information to websites, local newspapers, and the NCTA North Star Magazine.

**Membership Liaisons** contact new members inviting them to events and offering information about the chapter.

**Chapter Officers** are elected to two year terms every other January. At this time elected officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Trail Coordinators. Consider helping to direct and coordinate chapter activities by serving as an officer.

### **Trail Adopters or Trail Walkers**

- Trail Adopters regularly maintain a section of trail. Adopting a section of trail involves walking the trail a few times during the year. Tools can be borrowed from your trail coordinator. While you walk you can do any of the following:
  - Cut back brush & weeds.
  - Prune back overhanging or encroaching branches.
  - Remove downed trees or branches and report location (gps coordinates are great!) of downed trees that are difficult to step over and need to be taken out with a chain saw.

- Work on drainage issues and report location (again, gps coordinates are great!) of drainage problems that you need help with.
  - Check paint blazes to make sure the trail is well marked and visible, especially at turns or road crossings. Branches can be cut back to make the blazes more visible and blazes can be added if necessary.
  - Contact your trail coordinator with trail issues that require more people to solve. These can be added to a chapter trail work day.
- Trail Walkers can also be a great asset. Anyone can help out on any section they get the urge to explore by reporting downed trees and other problems to us via email at [anf@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:anf@northcountrytrail.org) .
- Volunteer Agreement - The ANF Chapter has a standing Volunteer Agreement with the Allegheny National Forest to work on the trail. Members will get insurance coverage through the National Forest Service. People who are not members of our chapter can still volunteer and are urged to sign a Volunteer Agreement with the ANF to get the same insurance coverage. Under the Volunteer Agreement, the federal government will cover injuries as long as volunteers are practicing safe work procedures, wearing a helmet and not operating a chain saw (unless chain saw certified through the National Forest Service).