



## 2023 Celebration Frequently Asked Questions

Updated May 2023

### Who will be at the 2023 Celebration?

The North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Annual Celebration is a gathering of North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) supporters, outdoor enthusiasts, volunteers, staff, and agency partners, all coming together to explore new sections of the Trail and to celebrate our local volunteers and partners that manage it. Historically a membership gathering of the Association, this event has grown to be far beyond that, attracting new people every year. Now, often more than 300 people attend from 10 or more states each year. All are welcome to join, and we hope you'll feel part of our Trail Community when you do.

### Where is it?

Chestertown, New York at the Forest Lake Camp. This is just west of Lake George and the Vermont state line. A variety of guided hikes will take place within about a two-hour radius. Please reference the [schedule](#) for details of activities.

### How much does it cost to attend and what is included?

Registration prices vary based on your preference of lodging. There is \$50 a discount for those who register by June 30: Use the code **ERLYBRD23** at checkout.

- **All-Inclusive, Bunkhouse** (\$600) includes site access, lodging, all meals (Wednesday dinner through Sunday breakfast + snacks), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes.
- **All-Inclusive, Tent Camping** (\$500) includes site access, reserved tent space, all meals (Wednesday dinner through Sunday breakfast + snacks), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes.
- **Site Access** (\$440) includes site access, all meals (Wednesday dinner through Sunday breakfast + snacks), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations, and transportation to/from hikes.
- **Day Pass** (\$150) includes site access for that day, all meals for that day (breakfast through dinner), Celebration hikes, workshops, and presentations of that day, and transportation to/from hikes that day.

(See the "Where should I stay?" question below for details on each lodging option.) Participants ages 2 and under do not need to register, but individual meals and seats at events will not be guaranteed.

## Do volunteers who are helping with Celebration operations have to pay?

Official Celebration volunteers can receive a discounted registration. Please contact Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at [awhittington@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:awhittington@northcountrytrail.org) or **616-987-0964** for inquiries. Aside from NCTA staff that are involved, this entire event is run by volunteers. Providing free registration to volunteers isn't a viable option for the NCTA. Registration fees support transportation, materials, and overhead needed to offer this event and help further the mission of the NCTA.

## When does registration begin and end?

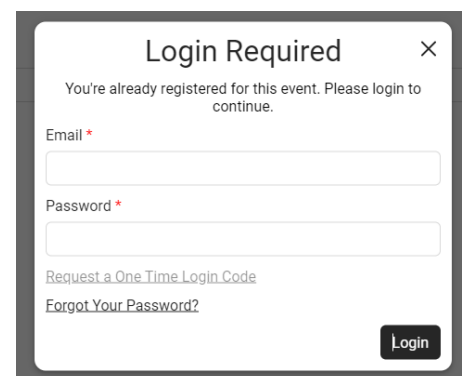
Registration is open May 26 through and September 1.

## How do I register?

Online at [site.pheedloop.com/event/nctacelebration](https://site.pheedloop.com/event/nctacelebration). Pheedloop is new registration software [to the NCTA] as of 2023, so the process will look and function differently than it has in the past.

Tips include:

- Within the tickets section are the main four registration options to attend 2023 Celebration: *All Inclusive, Bunkhouse*; *All Inclusive, Tent Camping*; *Site Access*; and *Day Pass*. **Add-on tickets** appear here too, which are separate features of the main three tickets, including hikes that require an additional fee to participate in. These are labeled as "Add-on" and are not required.
- Once you select your ticket(s) and enter payment information, you will be prompted to select Celebration activities of your choice, including hikes and workshops. Descriptions of each are in the [Schedule](#) tab at the top of the screen. It is recommended you browse those beforehand or open a separate browser tab to view those while you register, as the descriptions will not appear in the registration process.
  - If you are leading a hike, please do not sign up for it during the registration process - you are already accounted for!
  - On your final personalized schedule, you may notice additional activities listed, such as Keynote Speaker or Awards Ceremony. Every Celebration registrant is automatically enrolled in these, though participation is not required.
- When registering for Celebration and entering your email address, the software creates a profile for you. This may prompt a sign-in box to appear (see image on right). If so, it's recommended you click one of the two links provided below the Password field: "[Request a One Time Login Code](#)" or "[Forgot Your Password?](#)" Pheedloop will send information to the email address you provide. Follow the instructions in the email you receive and you can continue



Login Required

You're already registered for this event. Please login to continue.

Email \*

Password \*

[Request a One Time Login Code](#)

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

Login

with registration.

### **Can I register on-site at the venue?**

No. Pre-registration is required.

### **Where should I stay?**

Two registration options include on-site lodging. If you choose **All-Inclusive, Bunkhouse**, you will be in a shared space with bunk beds and an attached bathroom. Some bunkhouses will be all-gender and some will be one-gender (e.g. all female). Roommate preferences and requests will be collected via email after tickets are purchased and activities are selected, so please watch your inbox. If you choose **All-Inclusive, Tent Camping**, you will have a tent spot reserved for you and you will need to bring your own camping gear. There is also a **Site Access** option and a **Day Pass** option - selecting either means you will be responsible for your own off-site lodging. Chestertown is 8 miles away; Warrensburg is 6 miles away; and the town of Lake George is 12 miles away. There are a variety of accommodations throughout the area surrounding the camp, including the following recommendations:

- [Courtyard \[Marriott\] Lake George](#), \$259/night. [Book](#) by August 15 as a Celebration participant to receive this group rate.
- [Llama House ADK](#) in Wevertown, NY; varying prices.
- [Lake George Battleground Campground](#) (NY State Parks); varying prices.

Campers (e.g. pull-behinds, fifth-wheels, RVs) are not allowed at the Forest Lake Camp. If you'd like to stay on-site, your options are the shared bunkhouses or tent camping. If you'd prefer to utilize your camper while attending 2023 Celebration, you will need to purchase a Site Access ticket then arrange for off-site accommodations.

### **Can I cancel my registration and if so, will I be refunded?**

You may cancel any time if need be, by contacting Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at [awhittington@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:awhittington@northcountrytrail.org) or **616-987-0964**. Partial refunds can be given until September 1, 2023. There is an administrative fee of \$50 for any cancellations. No refunds are issued after September 1, 2023. You may also transfer your registration to someone else or donate the full amount of your registration fee to the NCTA. If you would like to consider a transfer or donation, please contact Abby Whittington.

### **I registered online and didn't receive a confirmation email. What should I do?**

Please allow 24 hours and check your Spam folder. Then, if need be, contact Abby Whittington, NCTA Annual Events Coordinator, at [awhittington@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:awhittington@northcountrytrail.org) or **616-987-0964**.

### **If a hike I'm interested in is full, can I just drive myself and join the group anyways?**

No. We choose our hike limits carefully and for a few reasons. Most important is that we protect the integrity of the Trail and respect the experience of other users that may be on the Trail at the same time. It's also important that we take into account the parking capacity at trailheads, as well as ensuring our hike leaders and sweeps have a group size that is manageable. So although we encourage you to hike any of these locations on your own, we do ask that you don't go at the

same time as these scheduled group hikes. Thank you for your patience as we take the time to ensure everyone has a great hiking experience during this year's Celebration!

### **Will there be additional activities not currently listed?**

All hikes and workshops will be listed [online](#). There may be hikes or workshops added throughout the summer to accommodate more guests, but any additions or changes will be reflected on the website.

### **Tell me about the t-shirt.**

Commemorative t-shirts are available for \$20. You can purchase a shirt and indicate your size preference during the online registration process. Alternatively, you may purchase a shirt on-site, but availability of your preferred size cannot be guaranteed at that time.

### **What should I pack?**

This is an event focused on the outdoors and trail experience, so please come prepared for all types of weather and activity. Sturdy hiking shoes, rain (and maybe snow) gear, a water bottle or hydration pack, and a small backpack are highly recommended. Adirondack All Seasons Outfitters is 18 miles away in North Creek (a 20-minute drive) should you need extra or replacement items. You are welcome to dress up for evening events but the general dress code is trail casual. Study the weather forecast in advance. Average daily temperatures in this area in late September range from lows in the 40s to highs in the 60s (°F). Fall in Upstate New York can be unpredictable; the event will go on rain, snow, or shine. Consider bringing warm layers, a hat, gloves, and extra clothes to replace wet items.

### **Are dogs allowed?**

Dogs are not allowed on Celebration hikes, but you are welcome to take leashed dogs on personal hikes in areas that allow dogs. It is strongly recommended you research local rules and regulations beforehand. Dogs are also not allowed on-site at the Forest Lake Camp.

### **What else is there to do in the area?**

View the **Local Attractions** tab (below the video) at [northcountrytrail.org/celebration](http://northcountrytrail.org/celebration) for information on the Chestertown area.

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Additional questions may be directed to NCTA Annual Events Coordinator **Abby Whittington** at [awhittington@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:awhittington@northcountrytrail.org). Please include "2023 Celebration" in the subject line.