

BGTN

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES • BRUCE-GREY TRAILS NETWORK

Trail Building Tool Kit

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10: VOLUNTEERS



ALL PHOTOS EXCEPT BIKE BY ALLISON KENNEDY



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Volunteers

Volunteer trail members are dedicated and hard working, and without them trails wouldn't exist. They are the soul of trails, putting in long hours of planning, fundraising and trail building, gaining in the end, not a pocket full of money, but a sense of accomplishment and self worth. Trail volunteers are trail enthusiasts with a variety of backgrounds and who want to develop a trail that can be enjoyed by themselves, their families and community. Self-satisfaction is all part of the fun while watching a trail develop from beginning to end.

10.1 VOLUNTEER TRAIL JOBS

- Leadership roles
- Trail builders
- Fundraising
- Administration
- Promotion and Marketing
- Map and Background research
- Sub-Committee organizers, such as risk management or landowner committees

10.2 WHERE TO LOOK FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteer center
- Established trail groups
- Work place
- Schools
- Local businesses
- Local sporting clubs
- Local naturalist and interest groups
- Municipal council/recreation department

10.3 DEALING WITH VOLUNTEERS

- Educate and train trail members by hosting special seminars or workshops
- Identify trail members' skills and abilities; work with them in finding a task that they will feel comfortable pursuing.
- Identify what the committee needs to accomplish. Set specific goals and tasks for members to attain. Keep organized and set deadlines.
- Develop legal policies and procedures that cover insurance, trail workers rules and regulations, risk management procedures, an acknowledgement-of-risk form and a waiver-of-liability form.
- Keeps in mind that it is a volunteer position; don't overload trail members with work. Keep task fun and fulfilling for the person(s) involved.
- Recognize all work - big or small. Give a small gift or award of recognition when least expected.
- Be a positive leader. If problems arise deal with them promptly and discuss the issues face-to-face.

Recommended Reading

Guide for Trail Workers, Third edition. The Bruce Trail Association, 2000.

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