

## **ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB**

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club), founded in 1922, is a nonprofit member driven organization devoted to advocating the protection, stewardship, and responsible use of New York State's parks and Forest Preserve and wild lands and waters vital to our members and chapters. The Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program's mission is to protect New York's alpine habitat through education, trail work and research. The individual employee goals and responsibilities are outlined in the following job description:

**JOB TITLE:** Summit Steward

**LOCATION:** Heart Lake Program Center, Lake Placid, New York

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Summit Steward Coordinator & Education Director

**COMPENSATION:** \$11.80 per hour, 40-44 hour work week

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The Summit Stewards are employees of the Adirondack Mountain Club. They are responsible for educating the hiking public about the rare and fragile alpine communities of the High Peaks. A Summit Steward's foremost goal is to encourage hikers to walk on the solid bedrock above timberline, thereby protecting the threatened and endangered flora of the alpine zone. As educators and interpretive naturalists, Summit Stewards teach hikers about:

1. Minimizing impact on alpine summits.
2. The significance of alpine vegetation in the context of the state's natural heritage.
3. Alpine ecology.

The Summit Steward Program is a cooperative effort of the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Through "low-key," person to person educational contacts on the summits protect the endangered alpine flora by encouraging hikers to walk on the solid bedrock.
- Provide hikers with interpretive education to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the alpine communities. Have information available about the natural history, ecology, Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics and botany of the summits.
- Work to collect population data of state listed alpine plants, which is used to update the database of the New York State Natural Heritage Program.
- Complete alpine trail definition projects which include: building scree walls, rock packing exposed soil, brushing in social trails, (re)building rock cairns and (re)painting trail blazes.
- Encourage hikers to follow DEC regulations, and inform Rangers of trail misuse and emergencies.

- Gather and report use figures from the summits to be incorporated into the High Peaks Unit Management Plan.
- Complete weekly reports.
- The Summit Steward Program **shall not** be responsible for initiating or conducting backcountry search and rescue operations.
- Participate in the evaluation of the program by preparing a final report that details the season and makes suggestions for the future.
- Supplemental duties/responsibilities to support other club operations, as requested.

#### **CANDIDATE PROFILE:**

- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with a diversity of people.
- Commitment to stewardship and environmental education.
- Preferred current enrollment in or completion of an undergraduate degree in the natural sciences.
- A strong knowledge of natural history (especially alpine botany), ecology, and the landscape of the Adirondacks.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Willingness to provide personal camping equipment.
- Speaking knowledge of French is preferred.
- Excellent physical condition and an ability to climb the High Peaks in a reasonable time, carrying a full pack. Also, tolerance of long hours outdoors, insects, and solitude. Must be willing to live and work outside during adverse weather conditions.

#### **CLASSIFICATION AND WORK SCHEDULE:**

- Non-exempt classification
- Full-time, 40-44 hours per week, seasonal
- The Summit Stewards work a five day on, two day off schedule, including weekends and holidays. They reside in the backcountry during their work week.

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