

2019 Education Report

Education Department Staff:

Seth Jones, Education Director

Tom Manitta, Outreach Coordinator

Tyler Socash, Education Programs Coordinator

Mary Glynn, Outdoor Skills Coordinator

Kayla White, Summit Steward Coordinator*

Seasonal Staff: Maggie Newell, Colleen Corrigan, Olivia Gundrum, Audrey Fatone, Zach Lawrence, Anna Monarchino, Emily Dowd and Colin Weinstein.

**See more about Summit Stewards in their separate annual report here:*

<https://www.adk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Summit-Stewardship-Report-2019.pdf>

2019 was a busy year for ADK's Education Department. In total, ADK's Education team (5 full-time staff, 3 seasonal, and 5 interns) had contact with over 12,592 people, which included trainings, guided hikes, school programs, naturalist walks, conversations on Mt. Jo, lectures, programs, and workshops.

One of the biggest changes in the department this year was the **hiring of Mary Glynn, our new Outdoor Skills Coordinator**. Mary is a familiar face at ADK; she worked on Loj Crew in 2014, and has volunteered as a trip leader for ADK's Northville-Placid Trail Chapter. Coming from her former position as Field Director at the True North Wilderness Program, a wilderness therapy organization based out of Vermont, Mary brings a wealth of outdoor-related knowledge to ADK. When she is not at work, she can often be found on the trail as she works toward her lofty goal of traversing the Northeast 111. Mary holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. She is a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and has training through the American Canoe Association in canoeing.

Interpretive Programs:

- Outreach Intern Colleen Corrigan organized a successful **Winter Lecture Series and Winter Naturalist Programs**, which were offered to chapters and groups staying at the Adirondack Loj. Colleen had 142 participants in these programs.
- During the winter, Summit Steward Coordinator Kayla White presented to the Iroquois Chapter, Schenectady Chapter and the Genesee Valley Chapter.
- Seth and Kayla worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on a **Preventative Search and Rescue Initiative**.
- Naturalists Audrey, Zach, Anna, Emily and Colin arrived on May 20. Their first weeks were spent in a Certified Interpretive Guide training (conducted by Kendra Ormerod with participation from the Adirondack Museum, the Paul Smith's VIC, and Nature up North), Wilderness First Aid, Leave No Trace training and various other naturalist training's conducted by Tom and Maggie. The naturalists did an outstanding job facilitating guided hikes up Mt. Jo, guided nature walks twice a day, summit hosting on Mt. Jo, and staffing the Nature Museum seven days a week. They also provided Wednesday

evening campfire programs, Friday night hikes, Friday evening talks at JBL and Saturday lectures at JBL and Heart Lake.

- The Naturalists put together a fabulous new exhibit at **ADK's Nature Museum** focusing on Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics.
- Naturalists interacted with over 11,000 visitors during July and August.
- The Saturday Evening Lecture series at the amphitheater and Johns Brook Lodge had great participation this summer with exciting programs from music to Adirondack history. Over 263 people attended a program at Heart Lake or JBL.
- Tyler, Kayla, Bobby and Ben worked on new Leave No Trace videos for social media thanks to funding from the 46er Conservation Trust.
- Tom worked on new way finding signage around the Heart Lake Program Center to match ADK's brand standards.
- Tyler and Maggie did a Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics presentation at the Fort Drum Library.
- Tom participated in a **5-day Interpretive Planning Training** through the National Association for Interpretation. We look forward to using the skills he picked up from the training to continue to improve and develop programs.
- During the Fall, Seth did programs for students from Paul Smiths College.

School and Community Outreach:

- Twelve schools participated in the 2018-2019 Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program, which included 408 participating students. This year's participating schools included Oak Street Elementary, Arthur P. Momot Elementary, Elizabethtown-Lewis Central, Keene Central, Keeseville Elementary, St. Regis Falls Central, St. Bernard's School, Bloomingdale Elementary, Petrova Elementary, Lake Placid Elementary, Schroon Lake Central and Long Lake Central.
- The winter portion of the 2018-2019 Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program went very well. A total of 408 students from 12 schools participated.
- In the spring, the 2018-2019 Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program wrapped up in June, with 408 students coming out to Heart Lake. The Naturalist Interns helped out tremendously with some of the larger groups (Oak Street, Petrova, Keeseville).
- We held our fifth annual Teacher Kickoff Meeting in August. Teachers from different schools got together and spoke about how they incorporate the program into their curricula. It also provided Outreach Coordinator, Tom Manitta and Maggie a valuable opportunity to hear from the teachers about the strengths of the program and potential areas to expand or improve the program.
- In September, Tom and Community Outreach Educator Maggie Newell started our 2019-2020 Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program by visiting our twelve participating schools: Oak Street Elementary,

Arthur P. Momot Elementary, Boquet Valley Mountain View Elementary, Boquet Valley Lake View Elementary, Keene Central, Keeseville Elementary, St. Regis Falls Central, St. Bernard's School, Bloomingdale Elementary, Petrova Elementary, Lake Placid Elementary and Schroon Lake Central.

- In September and October 406 fourth graders came out to the Heart Lake Program Center to hike Mt. Jo. This year, tough weather conditions resulted in many programs getting rescheduled to the school's rain date and pushing programs into late October. We finished this fall's hikes in the snow
- Seth and Kayla conducted Leave No Trace training for approximately 30 DEC Assistant Forest Rangers, Caretakers and SCA Backcountry Stewards
- Seth conducted a Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop for the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism social media ambassadors and for the employees of the Lake George Chamber of Commerce who are working at the new visitor center near Glens Falls, NY off of Rt. 87.
- Tyler conducted an outreach program for the Albany Chapter.
- We hosted a successful **Leave No Trace Hot Spot** in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness along with Leave No Trace Outreach Manager Mitch and the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers, David and Monika from August 7 to 14. Events included sustainable trail building during a Community Service Day on Cascade, a Facebook Live Q & A with 1,200 viewers, a Social Media Rendezvous with local influencers and popular accounts, a Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop, and a Leave No Trace Backyard Session at a local Brewery. It was a resounding success!
- In November, Tom did a presentation for an Environmental Education class at Skidmore College about the Three Seasons Program.

Skills Workshops:

- During the winter, we ran 16 workshops and guided hikes, with a total of 150 participants.
- Seth and Tyler attended the annual Leave No Trace Master Educator provider meetings in Boulder, CO.
- Seth and Tyler taught a custom **Leave No Trace Master Educator** course for Green Mountain College in April.
- In the Spring, Tom, Tyler, and Seth ran the following programs during this period: Map and Compass (2), Wilderness First Aid (1 public offerings and 1 for staff), Outdoor Leadership 101, Backcountry Cooking 101, Fly Fishing 101, Leave No Trace Trainer for North Country School, Leave No Trace Master Educator (custom for ADK and Green Mountain College), Thru-hiking 101 and 1 private guided hike with a total of **124 participants**.
- Olivia Gundrum joined us for her second season as Wilderness Trip Leader. She did a great job leading day hikes and backpacking trips in the High Peaks.
- Maggie Newell joined us for her fourth season with ADK as Road Scholar Trip Leader. She lead Road Scholar programs and private guided trips this summer.

- Tyler and Content Strategist Ben Brosseau ran a Leave No Trace trainer for Summit Stewards and Supervised Volunteer Trail Crew leaders; High Peaks Information Center Manager Bobby Clark and Wilderness Trip Leader Olivia Gundrum led a simultaneous trainer course for Naturalists and HPIC staff.
- The summer was tremendously successful for our workshops, guided hikes and backpacking trips. We ran a total of **46 guided programs with 218 participants**, continuing to build on last summer's success.
- Demand for privately guided programs has been very high; we ran 11 privately guided trips and custom skills programs. Trips were led by Tyler, Mary, Maggie Mark (HPIC) and Bobby Clark.
- Teen Programs were a big success this summer! Both programs (Advanced Teen Backpacking and Aquatic Stewardship) ran with a total of 14 participants.
- We ran custom Leave No Trace Trainer courses for Frost Valley YMCA for a total of 14 participants, mostly teens.
- Three weeklong **Road Scholar Multisport** programs and **Three** weeklong **Road Scholar Hiking** programs were run by Tyler, Mary, Seth, and Maggie with a total of **42** participants.
- This was a successful summer for Leave No Trace programs; Tom and Mary ran a Trainer course in July and trained 9 participants, and Tyler and Tom ran a Master Educator course in August with 9 participants. Seth and Mary ran a Leave No Trace Master Educator in September with 9 participants.
- Seth taught a custom Leave No Trace Master Educator Course for the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks, Alaska in June.

In total, we have directly reached over 2584 people with Leave No Trace training and messaging.