



Minnewaska State Park Preserve  
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## Trail Steward Program

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is recruiting volunteers to help protect the fragile and stunningly beautiful landscape of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. As an increasingly popular destination for visitors, the Park Preserve is comprised of 23,000 acres of outstanding natural communities featuring picturesque Sky Lakes, waterfalls, unique plant communities, and breath taking vistas. Visitors of all abilities and ambition have access to these natural gems via an extensive network of historic carriage roads and hiking trails. Visitor numbers are increasing each year, adding stress on the natural communities and Park Preserve staff.

The goal of the Trail Steward Program is to give experienced hikers an opportunity to engage directly with park visitors about safe and responsible use of the trails. Stewards will be stationed on popular footpaths on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Thanksgiving.

### Specific Responsibilities

- Engaging visitors about hiking best practices and strategies for safe enjoyment of their hike.
- Engaging visitors about the natural plant communities and the fragile resources.
- Informing visitors about Park regulations, including carry in – carry out and dog leash regulations.
- Tracking visitor numbers.
- Packing out litter.
- Reporting trail conditions.
- Inform park staff of any incidents beyond the scope of the duties.

### Qualities of a Minnewaska State Park Preserve Steward

- Experienced hiker with ability to hike seven miles in rugged terrain.
- Committed to protection of the Park Preserve.
- Outgoing personality, willing to engage with diverse range of Park Preserve visitors.

### Minimum Commitment

- Attend one orientation session.
- Preferably serve on three shifts over a season.

### 2020 Steward Orientation Details

Meet at the Nature Center

April 26<sup>th</sup> or June 13<sup>th</sup>

10:00am -10:45am Classroom Session

11am- 3pm Optional hike

### Registration Details

Interested persons can register by calling the Park office at 845-255-0752 or email Sarah LaLumiere at [sarah.lalumiere@parks.ny.gov](mailto:sarah.lalumiere@parks.ny.gov).

### Questions?

Please call 845-255-0752 and ask for Laura, Nick, or Sarah.