



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 mitigate the degradation of trails and lands by providing experienced trail users an opportunity to engage directly with inexperienced hikers 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 included there.
- 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.
- Serve on three shifts over a season.

Orientation Details

Orientation session will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at the Minnewaska State Park Preserve Nature Center from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. For those who are not familiar with the trails or wish to join in for fun, there will be an optional two-and-a-half-hour hike following the session. Sessions may be added in the summer and fall for those who cannot make the May date.

Registration Details

Interested persons can register on line [using this form](#) or by calling the Park office at 845-255-0752.

Questions?

Contact Laura Conner at laura.conner@parks.ny.gov or 845-255-0752