

- Report your accomplishments to the Forest Service using the Adopt-A-Trail website.
- Ensure that all volunteers have adequate leather work boots and gloves on work days.
- Ensure that crew leaders have current basic first aid certification.

After basic maintenance has been completed and meets Forest Service specifications, maintenance in subsequent years may require less effort. The adopter may wish to take responsibility for another trail or section of trail.

Program Goals

As time increases the level of interest and commitment within the volunteer group, the group may be able to implement the following program goals:

- Enough volunteers/volunteer time will be donated to the adopted trail that maintenance levels will go down in time.
- As the volunteer group gains expertise, they may conduct training sessions in conjunction with the Forest Service to certify volunteer trail crew leaders. These leaders may then supervise volunteer crews

with minimal Forest Service presence.

- Within two years, the group should be able to begin to purchase a few tools to start a tool cache.
- Within five years, the group should have the expertise to manage the basic trail maintenance work days without on-site Forest Service assistance.

Limitations

Tools for trail work are very sharp and dangerous. This program is not appropriate for youth under 12 years of age, and volunteers must be 16 years of age to use a swinging tool such as a Pulaski.

This is hard, dusty work, often in hot conditions. Volunteers should be in good physical condition.

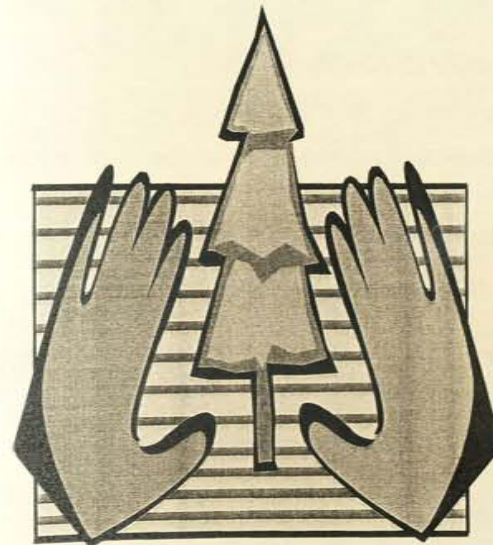
For more information contact:

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Volunteer
USDA Forest Service
Canyon Lakes Ranger District

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM



Canyon Lakes Ranger District
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<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/>

Getting Started

The Adopt-A-Trail Program is a cooperative effort between volunteers and the Forest Service to provide much-needed maintenance on national forest trails. Individuals, families, or groups



interested in helping us to keep public trails open can begin by contacting the Canyon Lakes District Office for information.

Forest Service trails staff will discuss potential trails for "adoption" with each interested organization. Selections will be based on a trail's need for maintenance, as well as the organization's needs. Participation starts with the signing of an agreement to maintain a trail mutually agreed upon by the Forest Service and volunteers.

It is important to take the time commitment seriously, as early termination of an agreement may leave a popular trail without maintenance. A three-year commitment to the program is required, although most groups stay much longer.

Program Overview

Once a trail has been "adopted", volunteer crew leaders will be taught by Forest Service staff to perform basic trail maintenance and construction techniques.

Basic maintenance consists of clearing the trail of small downed trees and intruding limbs and brush, and cleaning and repairing erosion control structures such as water bars.

The group will work at its own pace and on its own schedule within a generally recommended time frame.

Crew leaders and Forest Service staff will work with volunteer teams for the first full year of service to teach these skills to other volunteers on the team.

What the Forest Service Provides

- Expert guidance and training on basic trail maintenance techniques.
- Use of tools and equipment (guaranteed the first two years).
- An "adoption" sign for the trail after one successful year of maintenance by your organization.
- A chance to work outdoors as a team.
- An opportunity to help us take care of the land.

Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Provide one person from the group to become the liaison with the Forest Service.
- Provide labor to perform routine opening, annual condition surveys, and maintenance on Canyon Lakes district trails.
- Provide crew leaders willing to attend the Forest Service trails workshop offered each spring (all work needs to conform to Forest Service trail standards).
- Maintain tools and equipment, and notify the Forest Service of breakages or needed repairs.
- Schedule at least three work days- or two trips- per year for volunteers.
- Notify the Forest Service prior to all work, and complete a work log for each day.
- Provide necessary adult supervision and leadership for group when work is being done.

