

2025 Mid-Season Route 73 Trailhead Stewardship Program Report

Welcome to the second year of the Route 73 Trailhead Stewardship Program! The Route 73 Trailhead Stewardship Program's mission is to foster an outdoor ethic in every trailhead visitor, and provide the skills and knowledge needed to protect New York State's wild lands and waters for the benefit of all living beings. ADK has hired five trailhead stewards who are stationed at trailheads from Thursday to Monday. Their season began on Friday of Memorial Day weekend in May and will end in October. Locations include trailheads for Giant (Roaring Brook Falls and the Ridge Trail), the Garden, Rooster Comb, and Cascade Mountain (on Thursday and Mondays when the 46er Trailhead Stewards are not there). Stewards will also visit busy rock-climbing destinations like the Beer Walls and Chapel Pond. Trailhead stewards will educate hikers, backpackers, and rock climbers.

This program is contracted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Funding is provided through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Personnel



Front L to R: Adirondack Climbing Coalition (ACC) Outreach & Education Chair Jarrod Blundy, Natalie Banister, Alison Clark, Kayla White; Back L to R: Ian Trudell, ACC President Will Roth, and Jack Coleman.

Training

The trailhead stewards arrived on Friday, May 23rd, and were greeted with an orientation and introductions, a distribution of equipment, and a property tour of Cascade Welcome Center and Heart Lake Program Center. That weekend, stewards began with two days of Wilderness First Aid.

Monday, May 26th, we did a training hike up Big Slide Mountain. Stewards went up the Brothers and down the Slide Mountain Brook trail, a popular loop from the Garden.

Tuesday, May 27th, we did a combination of radio protocol and interpretive communication training at ADK's Education Yurts. DEC Wilderness Land Manager Tate Connor gave a presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and all of the new changes to come. Forest Ranger Allison Rooney went over radio protocol and personal safety training. I went over interpretive communication. We finished with a drive down the route 73 corridor.



Trailhead Stewards learning Leave No Trace. Photo Credit: Daria Stacy

Friday, May 28th- Tuesday, June 3rd, the stewards went through a 5 day Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor course (previously known as a Master Educator course). Daria Stacy and I taught the course in the Johns Brook Valley to familiarize staff with the area. This immersive course prepared the stewards with the knowledge and skills to educate the public on Leave No Trace principles.

Wednesday, June 4th, everyone participated in ADK's All-Staff Training.

Saturday, June 7th, and Sunday, June 8th were spent team stewarding at the Roaring Brook & Ridge Trailheads. Team stewarding is an important part of the training process because it allows new stewards to learn techniques and receive constructive feedback on their own educational approach.

Wednesday, June 11th, we did additional training at the Education Yurt on non-violent communication, inclusion in the backcountry, and Mental Health Wilderness First Aid. After lunch, we drove to the Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center to explore the cultural center and receive a presentation by David Kanietakeron Fadden on Haudenosaunee culture and history.

Thursday, June 12th was spent team stewarding at the Garden trailhead. Trailhead Stewards were split into two groups to do the AM shift and the PM shift.

Friday, June 13th, trailhead stewards did a tour of rock-climbing areas along the route 73 corridor with Adirondack Climbing Coalition (ACC) President Will Roth, ACC's Outreach & Education chair Jarrod Blundy, and Forest Ranger Allison Rooney. They were able to learn about rock climbing impacts, terminology, and how to educate rock climbers in Leave No Trace. Thank you to Adirondack Rock and River for making the day possible.

Saturday, June 14th and Sunday, June 15th, stewards were on their normal schedule stewarding for the weekend.

Monday, June 16th, the stewards hiked Giant by going up the Ridge trail and down the Roaring Brook trail. Training completed!

Thank you to everyone that participated in the training: Daria Stacy, Liam Ebner, Will Roth, Jarrod Blundy, David Kanietakeron Fadden, Tate Connor, and Allison Rooney.

Schedule

- **Rooster Comb** 6 am- 2 pm, Thursday- Monday
- **Cascade** 6 am- 2 pm all day, Thursdays & Mondays when the 46ers aren't there
- **Ridge Trail- Chapel Pond** 6 am- 2 pm, Thursday-Monday
 - Visit Jewels & Gems and Chapel Pond
- **Roaring Brook- Beer Walls** 6 am- 2 pm, Thursday- Monday
 - Visit Roaring Brook Falls and the Beer Walls
- **Garden AM** 5 am- 1 pm all day, Thursday-Monday
- **Garden PM** 12 pm- 8 pm all day, Thursday-Sunday

Equipment

Thanks to [L.L.Bean](#), we received a donation of rain jackets, rain pants, puffy jackets, and zip-off pants. They also donated gear to the summit stewards, trip leaders, volunteer crew leaders, and professional trail crew. They have been an amazing sponsor for ADK for many years. Thank you to the DEC for providing uniform shirts.

Conclusion

We are excited to be in our second-year stewarding along the route 73 corridor. Thank you for all of your support. Please feel free to reach out via phone (518-523-3480 x 301) or email with any questions or comments on how we can continue to improve the program and better protect the Forest Preserve. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Kayla White
Stewardship Director
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