

BUCK MOUNTAIN, PILOT KNOB TRAILHEAD STEWARD PROGRAM MID-SEASON REPORT

Here we are, nearing the end of July, and the Buck Mountain Trailhead Steward Program is in full swing. So far this season, 16 volunteer stewards have contributed 19 days of service, totaling 146.5 hours at the trailhead. During that time, they have connected with 1,125 hikers, sharing hiking essentials, Leave No Trace principles, and information about the trail to the Buck Mountain summit. They have also helped visitors explore other nearby destinations, including the trails to Pilot Knob, Inman Pond, and Stewart's Ledge. Along the way, they have welcomed everyone from large family groups and school outings to GE interns and even a group of 68 campers from an Adirondack camp.

The dedication of our stewards to promoting safe hiking practices and protecting the natural resources of the Adirondacks has not gone unnoticed. We regularly receive positive feedback from both local residents and visitors to the Lake George region who appreciate the knowledge, enthusiasm, and welcoming presence our volunteers provide. The Buck Mountain Trailhead Steward Program continues to demonstrate what committed volunteers can accomplish—not only by helping hikers have a safer and more enjoyable experience, but also by fostering a deeper appreciation for the remarkable public lands we all share.

Thank you to the ADK Glens Fall-Saratoga Chapter and the Chapter's Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour for financial support. Thank you to the following: Kayla White and Zach Lawrence at ADK for masterful steward training; Pilot Knob Fire Company for logistical support; Kate Kuklinski, our NYSDEC Land Manager for guidance and problem-solving; and Forest Ranger Carabetta for Lake George Wild Forest updates. Lastly, a huge thank you to our stewards for their dedication, time, and effort.

Phil Bernier & Jim Schneider

