

Trailhead
Ambassador
Program
2021



Trailhead Ambassador Programmatic Areas

▶ Trailhead Enhancement Project

- GOCO Funding - \$250,000
- Minimum of 15 locations in Grand County
- New signage throughout
- Parking lot expansion at Phases
- Parking lot delineation on USFS lands
- Includes porta-potties, kiosks, trash receptacles, bike racks, bike tool stands
- Facilitated by HTA

▶ Volunteer Trailhead Ambassador/Hosts

- Funding TBD - \$15,000 - \$20,000
- Staged at popular trailheads from June - September on weekends and holidays
- Identify locations
- Train 20-25 volunteer hosts in May
- Volunteer shifts of 2-4 hours
- Incorporate Grand County Wilderness Group
- Facilitated by HTA

Trailhead Ambassador/Host Program Responsibilities

- USER EDUCATION - hiking, biking, camping, trail use, fires, watershed and water quality, wildlife - human conflict, bear safety, environmental hazards, etc.
- Platforms - Leave No Trace, #RecreateResponsibly, Care for Colorado
- Training - online (zoom), prerecorded trainings, and classroom session
- Uniforms to identify volunteers
- Handouts/schwag: sunscreen, chapstick, maps, LNT cards, etc.
- Provide alternate locations for busy recreation sites

Trailhead Ambassador/Host Budget

- ▶ Coordinator: Wages & Taxes (6 month position - \$18/hr.) - \$12,168
- ▶ Uniform (Hat & shirt) + employee (+20 volunteers) - \$720
- ▶ Mileage Reimbursement (volunteers) - \$825
- ▶ Meals (Training Day & End-of-Season) - \$700
- ▶ Training Materials - \$250
- ▶ Membership/Partnerships (i.e. Leave No Trace) - \$350
- ▶ Volunteer/Public Education Giveaways - \$750
- ▶ HTA Administration & Marketing - \$250
- ▶ Grand PLACES 2050 Committee Meetings (6 mos.) - \$10,800*
- ▶ Labor (Volunteer) - volunteer labor rate @ \$24/hr. x min. of 250 hours = \$6,000*
- ▶ * = In-Kind Match

- ▶ Total= \$32,813; (\$16,800 in-kind; \$16,013 needed)

Ambassador Programs

- ▶ Wildlife Trail Ambassadors (WTA) - Vail Valley/Eagle County
- ▶ Grand Lake Trail Groomers (winter)
- ▶ SCOR - Ambassador Program in Crested Butte
- ▶ ENVISION Chaffee County
- ▶ Jefferson County Park Hosts

Funding Partners - 2021

- ▶ Town of Winter Park
- ▶ Winter Park Resort
- ▶ Headwaters Trails Alliance
- ▶ Other municipalities/agencies?

- ▶ GRANTS:
 - ▶ Colorado Outdoor Partners Initiative (due May 20, 2021)
 - ▶ Grand Foundation (due May 1, 2021)
 - ▶ CPW Partners in the Outdoors - not awarded (April 2021)

Messaging/Signage Examples

Leave No Trace
Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org

THE LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- 1 PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE**
Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use. Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups. Repackage food to minimize waste. Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.
- 2 TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES**
Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary. In popular areas: Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent. In pristine areas: Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- 3 DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY**
Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.
- 4 LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND**
Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- 5 MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS**
Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.
- 6 RESPECT WILDLIFE**
Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.
- 7 BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS**
Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Infographic by Earth River SUP, a proud partner of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
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 You are what you leave behind.	 You are what you leave behind.	 You are what you leave behind.
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#RecreateResponsiblyColorado

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Check the status of the place you want to visit. If it is closed, don't go. If it's crowded, have a back up plan.

PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Keep your group size small. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth and give others space. If you are sick, stay home.

PLAN AHEAD

Prepare for facilities to be closed, pack lunch, and bring essentials like hand sanitizer and a face covering.

PLAY IT SAFE

Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury. Search and rescue operations and health care resources are both strained.

EXPLORE LOCALLY

Limit long-distance travel and make use of local parks, trails, and public spaces. Be mindful of your impact on the communities you visit.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Respect public lands and waters, as well as Native and local communities. Take all your garbage with you.

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Be an active part of making the outdoors safe and welcoming for all identities and abilities.