

WTA Training Outline, April 13-14, 2019

1) Leadership and Emergency Response – Running a successful and safe volunteer trail maintenance event

- Identify general and personal leadership styles
- Increase participant's comfort with combating challenges to inclusivity on work parties
- Identify the role of leaders in creating a positive experience for volunteers on trail
- Understand what constitutes an emergency situation
- Gain familiarity with WTA emergency response procedure and documents
- Become proficient in radio usage, theory, and procedure
- Understand the roles of individuals during an emergency
- Gain confidence in the ability to react to emergency

2) Trail Analysis and Scouting –

- Become proficient at identifying common trail maintenance problems and the cause of such problems
- Develop sustainable solutions to problems
- Be able to prioritize maintenance projects to maximize group efficiency
- Explain how trail maintenance fits into the bigger picture
- How to document trail issues effectively so that others know what will need to be worked on and in what priority

3) Protecting Trails from Erosion – tread and drainage techniques

This topic is the foundation of trail work. It is important to understand that proper identification of tread and drainage problems is the key to sustainable trail. The purpose of the Protecting Trails from Erosion Work Session is to further develop skills related to identifying problem areas in order to minimize erosion. This includes understanding what is causing the problem and determining the best and most appropriate solution to the problem. Once the solutions are identified, you need to be able to effectively teach these techniques to your volunteers who will carry out the repair.

4) Wood Trail Structures – Turnpike, puncheon, retaining walls and bridges

Learn how to build things out of wood and effectively show volunteers how to do the same. This session is intended for those who are interested in learning more about building wood trail structures. It will help you to gain the confidence to tackle the complicated projects that involve more than just digging dirt. This session is focused on teaching the basics of trail structures from understanding the function of the structure, how to design and lay it out, the steps in assembly, and the proper tools and techniques for getting the job done safely and efficiently.

5) Rock Structures – Retaining walls, steps, and stream fords

This session will involve the construction of several different rock structures. Emphasis will be on proper site prep, safe techniques for moving rock around the work site, rock placement, and backfilling. We will build a rock wall and rock steps in areas that has shown they will benefit from this type of structure. This will be a great opportunity to build a quality structure out of the most enduring materials we use in trail construction.

6) Trail Layout and Design

The goal is to build an understanding of trail layout and design both in concept and practical application. Our work will include learning the basics of slope, grade, topography, aesthetics, control points and will consist of a substantial amount of field time, pulling tape, pounding grade stakes, and creating a trail log. This session will focus on the foundations of trail design before construction takes place.

7) Basic Rigging

This workshop will focus on the basics of rigging to help move heavy objects including rock and logs. This is an essential skill in any project that involves heavy construction such as bridge building or large rock walls. We are doing this class in the parking lot so that everyone gets a clear view and understanding of all the equipment involved. It will also give everyone a chance to set up the rigging. We will look at different ways to set up a system to harness mechanical advantage and discuss the limitations and failure points of the system. We will also set up highline systems that can be used to move materials to a job site with minimal disturbance of the surrounding site. This is becoming more critical as environmental regulations and enforcement increase in all the areas we work in. Recently we have acquired several different types of griphoists and pulley systems and we will look at each one so that participants are familiar with each piece of equipment.

8) Basic Crosscut Sawing

This class is designed for those folks who have an interest in learning about crosscut sawing. It will cover topics including personal protective gear for the logging out trails (please bring eye protection along with your regular gear), tools needed for a successful log out, types of binds encountered, dangers in logging out trails, and successful planning for cutting logs so that the trail is cleared with the minimum effort. This class is designed as an introduction to sawing and is not a Forest Service certification session.