

A Trail To Every Classroom

March 5th - Deadline for a Number of TTEC Opportunities



Present Your Curriculum
i-TREC: Ititarod Trail to
Every Classroom
August 1 - 6, 2010
Girdwood, Alaska

Our own TTEC professionals were asked to join up with staff from Chugach National Forest in Alaska to help them develop and implement their own place-based, service learning workshop series called *i-TREC*. In 2010, we'd like to take one of you, an alumni of the TTEC Program, with us to Alaska - all expenses paid! What's the catch? Work is involved of course. You will be asked to share your curriculum, assist with workshop logistics, connect with other trail teachers, not to mention explore this beautiful area! A proposal describing your curriculum, successes and challenges, including photos with your students, is due by March 5, 2010. Traveling to the Last Frontier State is a once in a lifetime opportunity, apply today.

**TTEC 2010 Alumni Workshop
Hike Leadership & Wilderness First Aid
August 2 - 6, 2010 Crawford Notch, NH**
Space is limited to 20 participants. Selection will be based on commitment to TTEC. Priority will be given to those with no or limited experience leading student hikes. This opportunity is offered free of charge and includes; instruction, Wilderness First Aid Certification, lodging and meals (Sunday p.m. - Friday lunch). Graduate credits



TTEC's own Rita Hennessy (left) and Annette Heckart (right) from Chugach National Forest, Alaska, November 2009

are available through Lebanon Valley College for \$200. Completed application and letter of support due March 5, 2010.

A Trail to Every Classroom 2010 Spring - Summer - Fall Dates

A series of three place-based, service learning, professional development workshops connecting youth and communities along the Appalachian Trail. Offered free of charge including meals, lodging and all course materials. Graduate credits are available through Lebanon Valley College for \$250. Teams of two or more teachers from each school are encouraged to apply. Completed application and letter of support due March 5th.

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We need to HEAR FROM YOU!!!!
Submit your stories and photos to
Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov

On February 10, 2010, President Obama signed a memorandum addressing childhood obesity and introducing the Let's Move! campaign led by First Lady Michele Obama. The National Park Service has been asked to play a key role in this effort by connecting kids to parks and the recreational experiences they offer. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the TTEC program are poised to be a highlight of this effort through the curriculum and programs that all of you have developed to get kids out on the trail.

The benefits of hiking are numerous and well documented by the American Hiking Society and many health and medical websites. You can choose the level of difficulty and the pace, and whether uphill or down, the benefits show cardiovascular improvements, mental clarity, muscle tone, as well as addressing "nature-deficit disorder." Harpers Ferry Middle School Tiger-on-the-Trail program leaders discovered from post hike questionnaires that this program positively impacted participants' (students, teachers, family members) attitudes about physical activity and increased the likelihood of exercising outdoors.

I realize that I am preaching to the choir of TTEC alumni and partners. However, these findings and more can be compiled to convince school administrators and parents that the Appalachian Trail is a valued resource in your communities providing recreational and curricular opportunities.

In our last newsletter, we highlighted Cedar Mountain Primary School's first Family Night on the trail in Vernon, New Jersey. We would love to highlight more of your successes in future newsletters, especially those written by students. Please send your stories to Jess Liptak at Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov. You can also share your stories as presenters at the spring and fall workshops for the new 2010 TTEC cohort.

Let's move - take a hike!

Rita



"Hurricane Rita"

Exploring All Options AND Choosing the Best One for Your Students and Surroundings

As teachers, there are many activities available to you when attempting to engage students with the great outdoors. Some at low cost or no cost, others at great expense, nonetheless, outside activities are generally enjoyed by all.

The Trail to Every Classroom Program (TTEC), has introduced many of you to the idea of using outdoor scavenger hunts, such as questing, letterboxing, geocaching and earthcaching. These "hunts" can involve basic word clues, guiding your students from place to place in search of a magic box full of tokens, log books or other trinkets, etc. Other, more sophisticated "hunts" might require knowledge and use of a GPS (Global Positional System) and wayfinding to lead your student to the final destination.

As users, or even potential creators of these modes of learning, it is important to remember a few key things before choosing your activity. Please note, the purpose of these guidelines is not to take the "fun" out of an activity, but to minimize impacts on resources, respect private property, avoid public alarm and most importantly keep you out of trouble.

What to consider . . .

- 1.) Choose the appropriate type of activity for the location.

Certain locations, specifically National Parks (including the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), National Forests and other federally owned lands, prohibit activities that impact or impair natural or cultural resources. For example, nailing a letterbox in the form of a bird house to a tree or hiding a box in a historic stone wall, is not appropriate in these areas. However, earthcaching or quests that use coordinates or a series of clues that do not take students off formal trails, yet lead them to phenomenal places



Finding Waypoints in Harpers Ferry, WV

in nature or to historic features for more clues, may be acceptable.

- 2.) Seek permission from landowners, park managers, school principals, etc. before you begin planning your outdoor activity.

You never want to catch someone by surprise. With today's awareness of national security heightened, letterboxes have been mistaken for bombs. In one instance, a school was evacuated, a bomb squad brought in and a box destroyed. Caches have been hidden in places where box finders have looked suspicious. Even further, boxes have been placed unintentionally on private property where finders have been caught for trespassing. So, be sure to ask permission and inform those who need to be in the know.

- 3.) Educate, Educate, Educate . . .

It is vitally important that we share these guidelines with our students so that we are all able to create and partake in fun and safe outdoor activities. For more information on these outdoor scavenger hunts, please reference the following websites:

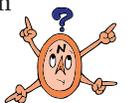
www.earthcache.org

www.vitalcommunities.org/Valley

Quest/ValleyQuest.htm

www.letterboxing.org

www.geocaching.com



VOLUNTEER - Spend a Week on a Trail Crew!

Camaraderie, skills, hard work - some of the many rewards of volunteering on an Appalachian Trail Crew!

Many TTEC alumni have asked for opportunities to learn or enhance their trail construction and maintenance skills. More and more schools today are building and maintaining trails as service learning projects around their schools



and even on the A.T. Here's an opportunity for you to model the way honing your trail skills for future service projects. Volunteer - spend a week on a trail crew! The work is definitely physical but forever emotionally rewarding. Accommodations and amenities are primitive, often with no access to showers, toilets or running water. This is a true backcountry experience in the company of others of varying ages and backgrounds who love the outdoors.

For more information or to apply for a volunteer trail crew vacation, log on to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's web page and follow the links below.

www.appalachiantrail.org
Home >Get Involved>Volunteer>
Trail Crews

To locate an A.T. trail club near you, log on to ATC's web page and follow the links below;

www.appalachiantrail.org
Home>Get Involved>Volunteer>
Learn more about A.T. Clubs

- May 6 - August 10, 2010
Konnarock Crew
- September 2 - October 25, 2010
Mid-Atlantic Crew
- June 6 - August 17, 2010
Smokies Wilderness Elite AT Crew
- September 5 - October 30, 2010
Rocky Top Crew
- June 26 - August 18, 2010
Maine Trail Crew
- July 5 - September 24, 2010
Vermont Long Trail Patrol



Do you remember ????

Select from the answers below.

1.) EarthCaching, unlike letterboxing and geocaching, does not leave logs or containers behind for students to find. EarthCaches are virtual caches often found with use of a GPS, that can teach students something important about the place found. It is an acceptable activity that can take place on federally owned park lands. True/False

2.) The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and the Nantahala Hiking Club are just three of 30 official AT maintaining clubs. True/False

3.) The Appalachian Trail passes through 14 eastern states, which state is not included;
a. North Carolina
b. South Carolina
c. Tennessee

Answers:

1) True, 2) True, 3) b. South Carolina

Share Your Stories with Us & Others!

To keep the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program alive - we want to hear from you. Celebrate some of your curriculum achievements with us, by sending news of your activities and photographs that documenting your journey!

The best way to stay connected with your former TTEC classmates and with those who came before you may be through this newsletter. So please, send us your news! If you submitted an article to a local paper, don't feel like you need to reinvent the wheel - send us a copy too. We are your Maine to Georgia connection. Photos can be submitted with your stories, however, be sure they can tell a story on their own - action or activity shots are best. All individuals shown in submitted photos must have completed and signed a National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy photo release form. If you need an electronic copy of the form, please ask - we'll be happy to send one your way. Help us keep it legal.

Submissions can be sent electronically by the below deadlines to Jessica_Liipatak@nps.gov, or via regular mail, to:

Jessica Liptak
TTEC - Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

You will receive a TTEC E-newsletters every quarter - March, June, September and December

Submission deadlines:
May 20, 2010
August 20, 2010
November 20, 2010
February 20, 2011



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425



Newest Member of AT Family
Silas James Legler
Born 12/28/09 8 lbs 7oz.
Son of ATC employee Julie Judkins
Congratulations, Julie!

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

This publication is made possible through the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) in addition to many other trail partners and clubs.

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Comments? Submissions? Write to:
Jessica Liptak
Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov

A Service-Learning Resource

There are several excellent service-learning journals out there for you to reference. Whether you want to read up on success stories from other education professionals conducting service-learning projects with their students, or share your own project details with others, there are resources out there for you! While we hope that you send your stories in to us, you may also want to consider sending your news to the *Community Works Journal*.

Professionals from all walks of education submit articles to this highly successful publication, including David Sobel, author of *Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities*.

If you are interested in receiving this electronic newsletter, subscribe at:

www.communityworksinstitute.org/cwjonline/index.html



“Key reasons for *Journal’s* survival are the consistently high quality of the articles and their immediate usefulness to teachers. The *Journal* is a resource that truly speaks to teachers with excellent, provocative ideas.”

Steve Seidel, Ed.D,
Chair, Arts in Education
Harvard Graduate School



Join the Journey! Become a Member

When you join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, you become a member of the distinguished group of people dedicated to preserving and protecting the Appalachian Trail. Every dollar we raise goes to support ATC and maintaining club efforts to conserve the footpath, viewsheds, and environmental and cultural resources along the now 2,178-mile Trail.

As a member, you will receive the following benefits:

- *A.T. Journeys: The Magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy*, focusing on conservation efforts and celebrating the stories of our volunteers, hikers and Trail communities.
- Discounts at the Ultimate Appalachian Trail Store.
- An Appalachian Trail Conservancy decal and patch.
- An ATC Member card.

Join by phone (304.535.6331 ext. 120) or on the web by completing an on line form at www.appalachiantrail.org.