



## Job Description: **Trail Construction and/or Repair**

Volunteer work performed in this discipline will involve one or more of the following: flagging proposed trail routes, constructing trail tread, bridge construction, boardwalk construction, culvert placement, puncheon construction, causeway/turnpike construction, Coweeta dip construction, retaining wall construction, stiles construction, water bar construction, the construction of various support structures such as shelters/lean-to's, parking areas, trail head facilities, information kiosks, installation of trail signs, and posting of trail blazes and boundary markers. All work will be done to standards as defined in the *North Country Trail Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*. Daily work may involve any or all of these specific tasks at various dates and times:

- **Flag Route:** (No JHA Identified).
- **Trail Tread/Causeway/Turnpike:** (JHA # 1, 2).
- **Coweeta Dips:** (JHA # 2).
- **Culverts:** Comply with permit restrictions if applicable. (JHA #1, 2).
- **Puncheons:** Note: local trail construction traditions/preferences may favor boardwalks vs. puncheons, or vice versa. (JHA # 1, 2, 6).
- **Boardwalks:** Comply with permit restrictions if applicable. (JHA # 1, 2, 6).
- **Bridges:** Comply with permit restrictions if applicable. (JHA #1, 2, 6).
- **Retaining Wall:** (JHA # 1, 2).
- **Stiles:** Choose either Step Stile, Turnstile, or Dodgeway construction/repair to best suit local conditions and landowner preferences/requirements. (JHA #2).
- **Water Bars:** (JHA #2).
- **Support Structures (Shelters, Kiosks, etc.):** (JHA # 1, 2).
- **Parking Areas/Trailheads:** (JHA # 2, 3, 6).
- **Signs/Markers:** (JHA # 2, 4).

- **Blazes:** both paint and nail-on type blazes must conform to specifications as defined in the *North Country Trail Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance* (Chapter 7 in either Handbook). (JHA # 4).

**Cumulative list of JHA's:** #1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

**Tools commonly used** in Trail Construction or Repair may include one or more of the following, depending upon complexity of the task and training/certification of the volunteer: clinometer, DR Field Mower® or Trimmer, side-discharge lawn mower, chainsaw, brushsaw, Pulaski, McLeod, Council Rake, pick mattock, cutter mattock, Hazel Hoe, Suwanee Sling, shovel, lopper, pruning saw, bow saw, crosscut saw, pole pruner/saw, axe, weed whip, crow bar, wheel barrow, sledge hammer, various hand tools (both manual and power, i.e.: screwdrivers, circular saws, claw hammers, drills, etc.), jack, adze, spud, measuring wheel, post hole digger, log carrier, Peavy or Cant Hook, cable winch, and rigging.

**Physical Demands** involved with Trail Construction or Repair range from light exertion to arduous exertion depending upon the task. Volunteers and the work they perform will be appropriately matched regarding their personal interests and abilities. In general, trail construction or repair often involves frequent stooping, lifting, reaching, bending, carrying, and repetitive motion. Distances walked may frequently exceed several miles per day, often while carrying tools or other equipment. Objects weighing more than 50 pounds may need to be lifted or otherwise moved.

**Working conditions** involved with Trail Construction or Repair may encompass all types of weather, from hot and humid to wet and cold. Work will occur across uneven terrain, including hills, slopes, grades, and wetlands in both forested and open areas, which may present numerous slipping and tripping hazards such as rocks and tree roots, mossy stones or logs, mud and water, or loose gravel. Exposure to long periods of sunlight, wind, dust/dirt, insects, motor noise, exhaust, gas/paint fumes is possible.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** for Trail Construction or Repair includes: first aid kit, sturdy work gloves, and sturdy leather work boots. Use of any gasoline-operated power tool/equipment will also require the proper use of eye protection and hearing protection. Additionally, in the case of chainsaw operation, a hard hat and saw chaps are also required for the faller (boots, gloves, hard hat, eye protection, and hearing protection required for “swampers”). Individual volunteers and work crews are strongly encouraged to carry cellular phones, radios, or other communication devices whenever and wherever possible/practical in case of emergencies.

**Job Hazard Analysis (JHAs)** will be made available by the Work Leader or VIP Coordinator to each volunteer for the specific work being performed, and will be covered during “tailgate” safety briefings. Additionally, safety considerations such as proper hydration, heat disorders, hypothermia, insect/animal bites & stings, and Lyme disease awareness should be discussed as appropriate given the local work environment, season, and geographic location. Refer to “Tailgate Safety Series” materials for talking points on these subjects.