

GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORK DURING THE COVID-19 DISASTER EMERGENCY

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard public health and safety. Trails are an important facility for mental and physical health. Per Professional Trailbuilders Association (PTBA), “As characterized by OSHA, general trailbuilding activities are a low exposure risk activity.” To minimize the risk further, all volunteer trail workers must do the following:

- Prohibit from working any volunteers with any symptoms of COVID-19. Sick volunteers must stay home.
- Take care to bring at least the following from home, in addition to normal items:
 - Enough food for the duration of the activity. Local stores or restaurants near the trail might not be open.
 - Do not share food with anyone not living in your household.
 - Your own pen, to sign in at the campsite, and to carry along for trail registers.
 - Your own camp chair, to maintain 6-foot minimum distance around the campfire.
 - Your own hand sanitizer, wipes, paper towels, toilet paper.
 - Crew leader does not have magic sources of these items.
 - Your own camping gear, not shared with anyone not living in your household.
 - Your own work gloves.
 - Good map/smartphone app of work area, so you can find the work site without sharing a car.
 - Ideally, your own tools.
- Every person present at a work site must wear non-medical grade face coverings (homemade masks, bandana masks, etc), while within 3 m (10 feet) of any other worker, trail user, or member of the public.
 - Volunteers beyond 10-feet from any other person may drop the mask/face covering until others approach.
- Require social distancing (6-feet minimum distance between workers even wearing masks/face coverings) unless the safety of the public or volunteers requires deviation (e.g. team lifting).
- Every person present on trail care must wear masks/face coverings, in public areas of the campsite including the restroom facility. Set up tents/trailers/cooking areas at least 20 feet apart from others.
- Before leaving the campsite, and immediately upon returning, use hand wash stations at campground restroom.
 - Volunteers should additionally bring, and carry in the day pack, hand sanitizer for their own use before and after lunch, snack/water or bathroom breaks, and before and after riding in any vehicle to/from any work site.
- Ensure all gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people, maintaining 6-foot social distancing, when required to meet, even when conducted outside.
- Volunteers should be encouraged to bring their own tools and use those.
 - If this is not possible, volunteers should use the same tool for the entire day. Each volunteer shall wipe/sanitize common tools used before and after use each day. Limit tool sharing. Any hand tool, machine, tool-specific PPE, electronics (iPads, GPS, radio) that is shared must be disinfected prior to use.
- Ensure volunteers are traveling to and from the job site separately. Wherever possible volunteers not residing in the same household, should not share a vehicle.
 - If volunteers do share a vehicle for short distances, all occupants of the vehicle shall wear masks; all occupants of the vehicle shall hand wash or sanitize before and after entering the vehicle; and occupancy is limited to no more than one person per full vehicle door (no middle seats, or climbing into jump seats of trucks).
- Do not take any extra chances that will risk you or other volunteers needing first aid or medical care.
- The leader of the trail crew event will serve as the “Pandemic Safety Officer” for each project or work site. The primary responsibility of the Pandemic Safety Officer will be to convey, implement, and enforce the social distancing and other requirements of this guidance for the protection of volunteers and the public at the site.
- Follow other applicable land management agency guidance, or [Department of Health](#) (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidance](#).
- Anyone not willing to follow **all** of these rules, and the additional direction of the trail crew leader and any landowner or agency representative, is asked to stay home.