

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Meeting

October 14, 2026

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

About Me

- **President & CEO, Appalachian Trail Conservancy** — Began tenure in January 2026.
- **Career in Conservation** — More than 20 years of experience in national parks, conservation, and nonprofit leadership.
- **National Park Service** — Previously served as Deputy Regional Director for the Northeast Region and Superintendent of two national parks.
- **National Parks Conservation Association** — Earlier career focused on protecting and advocating for national parks.
- **Early Career in Washington, D.C.** — Worked on Capitol Hill and in public affairs, where I learned the importance of advocating for issues you care about and the power of making your voice heard.





Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Trail States Visited

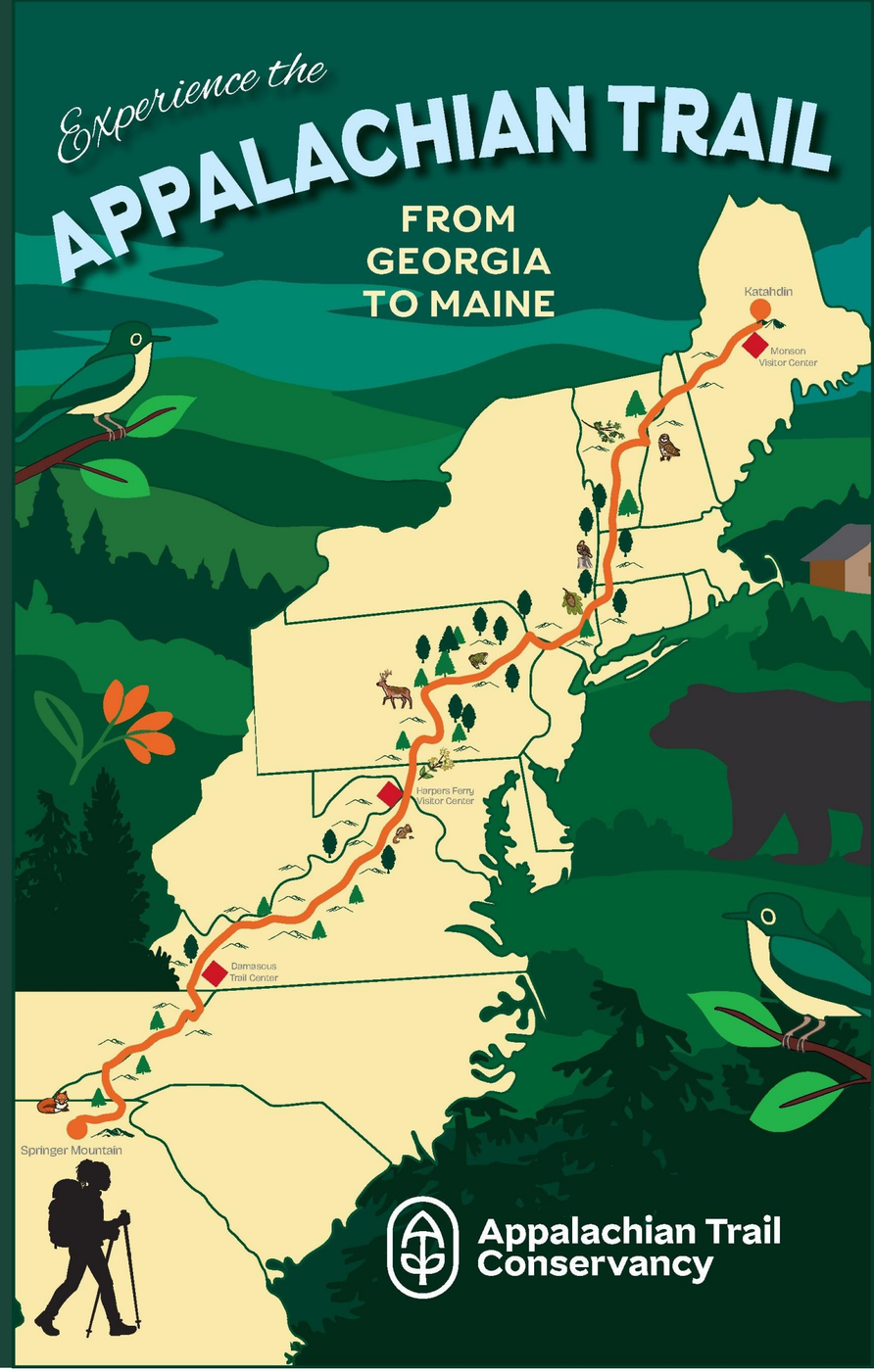
January 2026 – October 2026

New Hampshire
Massachusetts
Connecticut
New York
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia
Georgia

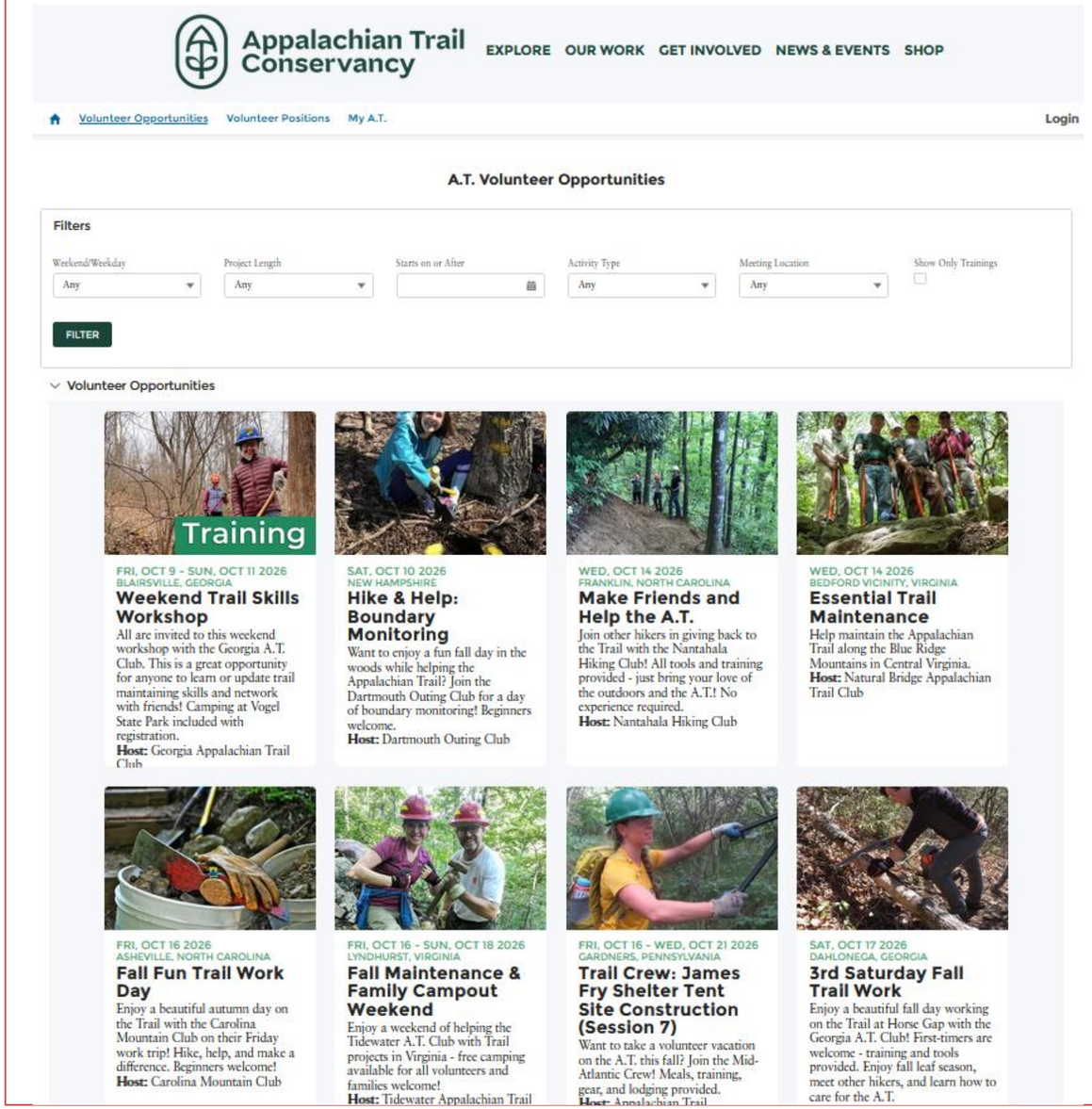
October 2026 – November 2026

Maryland
Tennessee
North Carolina

Appalachian Trail Conservancy



appalachiantrail.org/waystovolunteer





Build Your A.T. Volunteer Skills

Explore Learning Pathways, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's library of self-paced online trainings made to inspire and empower A.T. volunteers and partners.

Your Resource for Training

Learning Pathways makes it easy to learn, have fun, and track your training accomplishments as an A.T. volunteer.

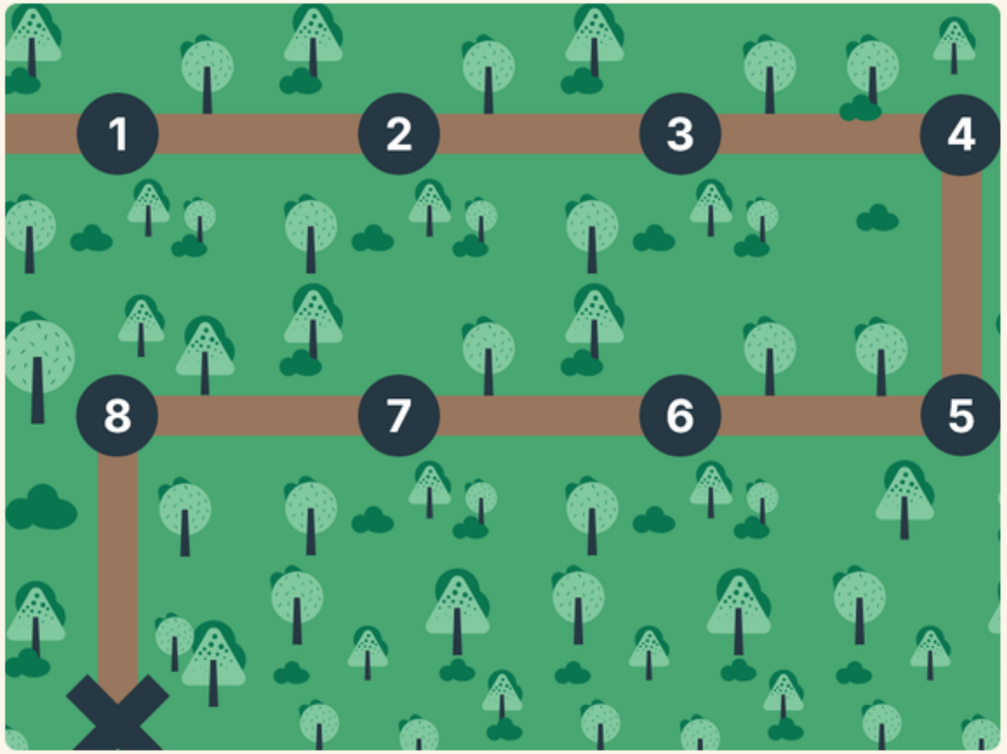
Choose a Learning Pathway and complete a series of curated training modules about maintenance and volunteering on the Appalachian Trail. Along the way, test your knowledge with short quizzes and earn digital certificates and badges as you progress.

Each pathway is designed around specific learning outcomes, so you can focus on the skills and knowledge that matter most to you.

You can also explore dozens of stand-alone training modules on demand, just like your favorite streaming service.

All training modules are free and available to the public.

REGISTER TODAY



appalachiantrail.org/training

Learning Pathways: Get Started!

Explore training opportunities, build your knowledge, and earn digital badges and certificates!

1. Register: Visit Learning Pathways Registration and enter Join Code: ATC2026.

2. Grab Your Backpack: Sign in using your email address. You'll receive an email with an access link.

3. Launch Learning Pathways: Click the link in your email to get started.

4. Choose Your Adventure! Select Pathways from the menu to explore training tailored to your role/interests.

Learn. Explore. Earn. Complete curated training modules, test your knowledge with short quizzes, and earn digital badges and certificates.

Help Us Improve! As an early user, share your feedback and ideas for future pathways at volunteer@appalachiantrail.org.



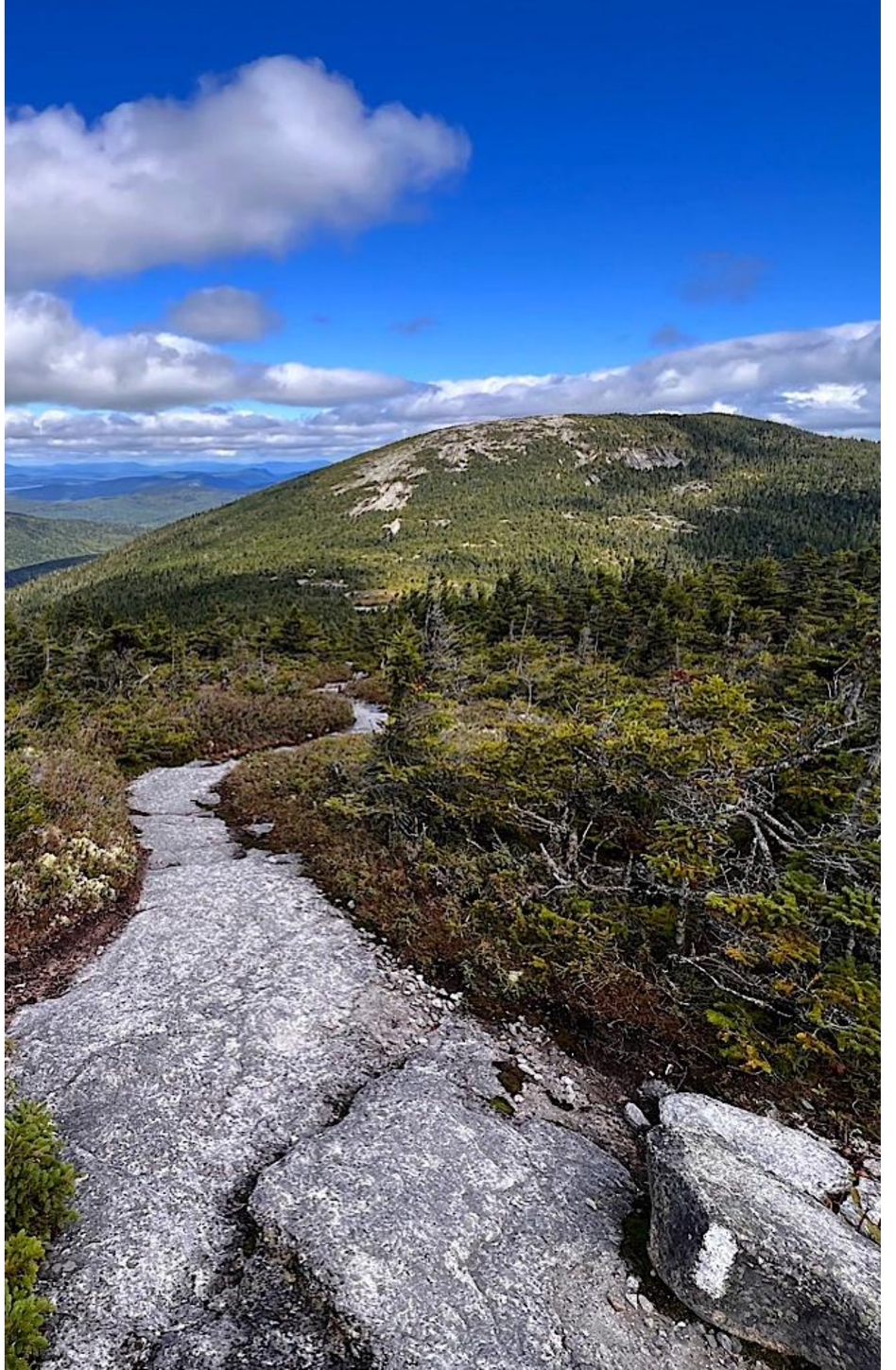


A.T. Club Succession Planning Support Network

Keeping club leaders connected and strengthening the future of A.T. stewardship

- **Building on the 2025 Volunteer Leadership Meeting:** An outgrowth of the gathering that brought together leaders from 27 A.T. clubs.
- **Continuing the Conversation:** Providing an ongoing opportunity for club leaders to stay connected beyond the meeting.
- **Sharing Knowledge and Resources:** Creating space to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and learn from one another.
- **Celebrating Successes:** Highlighting effective approaches and accomplishments across clubs.
- **Supporting the Next Generation:** Strengthening connections and sharing knowledge to help clubs prepare for future leadership transitions.

Stronger clubs. Connected leaders. A sustainable future for A.T. stewardship.



Looking Ahead…

- ❑ Listening Sessions and Surveys with Partners and Volunteers (early 2027)
- ❑ Continue Invitations to New Volunteers
- ❑ Volunteer Leadership Meeting Sept 10-12, 2027



Shaping ATC's Next Century: Building a shared vision for the next five years

As ATC enters its second century, we are embarking on an inclusive strategic planning process to shape our priorities and guide our work.

- **A Collaborative Process:** Engaging ATC staff, Trail clubs, agency partners, volunteers, supporters, and other key stakeholders.
- **Trail Clubs as Essential Partners:** Multiple opportunities for clubs to provide input at different stages of the process, through conversations, surveys, and other engagement opportunities.
- **Looking Ahead Together:** Building on our shared accomplishments, identifying emerging challenges and opportunities, and envisioning the future of the A.T. and ATC.
- **A Shared Path Forward:** Developing a clear, actionable plan that reflects diverse perspectives and strengthens our collective ability to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian Trail.

Your voice matters. Trail clubs will be essential partners in shaping ATC's next chapter.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy




Thank You!