

LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE
Konnarock Base Camp
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area
Sugar Grove, Southwest, VA
August 28th – September 1st, 2017

COURSE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

Course Registration

Thank you for your interest in participating in a Leave No Trace Master Educator course with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Please read over the contents of this information packet carefully and promptly mail the following forms to the address below (keep the rest for your files):

- Leave No Trace Master Educator Course Application
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Acknowledgement of Risk, Release of Liability & Photo Release
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Confidential Medical & Health History Form
- The Leave No Trace Center's Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk, Release and Indemnity Agreement

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy requires payment in full at time of registration to secure your place on the course. We will accept credit cards over the phone, a check in the mail, or a purchase order from your company or organization. If you have already submitted payment, just return the forms to complete your registration. If you have not yet enrolled in the course, send forms to the address below and contact the Leave No Trace Coordinator to arrange payment.

Send forms and contact for questions:

Marian Orlousky – Leave No Trace Coordinator
Appalachian Trail Conservancy Phone: 717-260-3217
4 East First Street Fax: 717-258-1442
Boiling Springs, PA 17007 Email: morlousky@appalachiantrail.org

Cost: \$630 for Appalachian Trail Conservancy Members, \$580 for A.T. Trail Club Members and Agency Partners, and \$700 for all others (Ask about becoming an ATC member with registration). Course fee includes instruction, curriculum and teaching materials, a subscription to the Leave No Trace Tracker and a one-year Leave No Trace Individual Membership. Two nights of lodging at Konnarock Crew Base Camp, at **609 Flat Ridge Rd., Sugar Grove, VA 24375**, meals Day #1 lunch through Day #5 lunch, group equipment, and transportation during the course are also included.

Partial scholarships are available through Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics - we encourage you to apply. Call 1-800-332-4100 or find the scholarship application on-line at www.LNT.org. You must first be registered in a course to apply for a scholarship. Sponsorship may also be available for A.T. volunteers and U.S. Forest Service personnel through the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Inquire with registration, if interested.

REFUND POLICY: Reservations canceled more than 30 days in advance will receive a full refund. For reservations canceled within 14-30 days of the workshop or program, the refund is less 30 percent of the workshop fee. Reservations canceled less than 14 days in advance will forfeit the full amount. After the start of the program, no refund will be given to a participant leaving the program for any reason. In the event that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy must cancel a workshop, registrants will be notified and all course fees and deposits will be refunded.

Course Information

**BEGINS: Monday, August 28th at 9:00 a.m. at Konnarock Crew Basecamp, 609 Flat Ridge Rd.
Sugar Grove, VA 24375**

**ENDS: Friday, September 1st, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Konnarock Crew Basecamp, 609 Flat Ridge Rd.
Sugar Grove, VA 24375**

DESCRIPTION: This five-day course is designed for individuals who are actively teaching others backcountry skills or providing recreation information to the public. The overall goal of the course is to train educators and others in ways to practice and teach Leave No Trace skills and ethics. Through classroom discussions, lectures and a four-day camping trip, this course will cover the seven Leave No Trace principles and discuss wildland ethics, as well as give the participants the tools and techniques for disseminating these low-impact skills to other users of backcountry lands. Participants could include a mixture of federal agency partners, educators, outdoor retailers, youth group and outing club leaders, and other individuals. Upon completion of the course, you will be qualified to teach Leave No Trace Trainer courses. The Leave No Trace Master Educator qualification is recognized and valued throughout the outdoor industry.

We'll be backpacking for four days, three nights. We will be hiking only a couple of miles each day on moderate terrain to allow plenty of time to cover course material, which we will do both during the day and into the evenings. The terrain of the Appalachian Trail varies greatly, so participants should be prepared for rocky, rugged and sometimes steep conditions. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to hike with a full pack (about 40-55 pounds) for 4-6 miles per day. We will camp at designated campsites, managed campsites, impacted campsites and explore the possibility of a pristine site, all along the Appalachian Trail.

CURRICULUM: A Leave No Trace Master Educator course emphasizes the skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. As stated in the Leave No Trace Disclaimer of liability, Leave No Trace courses do not teach basic travel, camping, or other outdoor skills, nor do they provide outdoor instructor certification. A Leave No Trace Master Educator course includes a minimum of four eight-hour days and at least three nights camping in the field.

Core Components for Master Educator course Curriculum

1. Review of the role of Leave no Trace Master Educator.
2. Discussion and practice of the principles and ethics of Leave No Trace.
3. Discussion of the Leave No Trace Trainer concept and Training Guidelines.
4. Overview of recreation ecology and types of resource and social impacts.
5. Discussion of leave no Trace teaching skills and techniques, student learning styles, and development of lesson plans.
6. Development of a Leave No Trace action plan.
7. At least one student led teaching exercise by each participant.
8. Focus on interactive and hands-on field experiences.
9. Review of the mission and need for the Leave No Trace program.
10. A historical overview of the Leave No Trace program.
11. Discussion of the role, function, and administrative structure of the federal land management agencies' Leave No Trace programs.
12. Overview of the role, function, and administrative structure of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

TEACHING SESSION: The Leave No Trace Master Educator Course is the foundation of the national Leave No Trace education model. Graduates of the Master Educator course are expected to teach others, including agency personnel and the public, the principles of Leave No Trace. In order to better equip Master Educators to meet this expectation, each participant will teach at least one class in the field during their Master Educator Course. These classes provide hands-on learning experiences and the chance to practice Leave No Trace teaching strategies in a supportive, educational environment.

Upon completion of registration participants will receive the *Teaching Session Information* page; Please read and respond accordingly.

SAFETY: As participant safety is high priority for all Appalachian Trail Conservancy-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed in order to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with staff to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. In case of an emergency, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy staff are trained in wilderness first aid, carry first aid kits, and follow a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy uses cell phones or other communication devices – although these are not reliable in all locations and conditions. Despite such steps, participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to cooking and camping chores, adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips, and transportation in vehicles or on foot. Please carefully read and sign both of the *Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability* forms and call if you have any questions. Participants' understanding of these risks and adherence to our policies and procedures can contribute to making this experience extremely rewarding.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW: You may stay in a rustic cabin at Konnarock Base Camp free of charge the evening of Sunday, August 27th—but please note dinner is not provided that evening and breakfast will not be provided before we meet on Day #1.

On Day #1, we will meet at 9:00 am at the Pavilion (main building) at Konnarock Crew Base Camp for a half day in the classroom. Lunch will be provided. After lunch on Day #1, we will pack up and head out for four days of hiking and three days of camping. Meals will be provided for the rest of the course, through lunch on Day # 5. We will hike and camp until the afternoon of Day 4, covering around 2-5 miles per day. On Day 4 we will return to Konnarock Base Camp, where showers are available and you may stay in a rustic cabin. The final day will be based around Sugar Grove.

ENVIRONMENT: Our Master Educator course will take place in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The MRNRA encompasses the two highest peaks in the state of Virginia, four Wilderness Areas, and 60 miles of the A.T. as part of over 500 miles of trails. The most beloved, most fragile, and most heavily impacted area is the 5000 acre Crest Zone featuring elevations over 4,000 feet, large rock formations, and a mixture of mountain balds and spruce-fir forests. The area is kept open in part by the grazing of a herd of wild, free-ranging ponies. Visitors include hikers, backpackers, horse riders, mountain bikers, trail runners, and naturalists drawn to this unique landscape and ecosystem.

Participants in this course will have the opportunity to observe heavily impacted backcountry sites as well as more pristine areas as an ideal backdrop to explore outdoor ethics.

In addition to scenery and wildlife, the **Mount Rogers High Country is known for dramatic changes in weather.** There has been snow and ice on Mount Rogers every month of the year, and a warm sunny day can quickly become cold, wet, windy, and dangerous for the unprepared hiker. Please keep this in mind when packing--despite the summer dates on the calendar, we should be prepared for cold and wet weather.

FACILITY: For your comfort at basecamp, bring bedding (or your sleeping bag), as well as shower supplies and a towel.

About Konnarock Trail Crew Base Camp

During the summer months, the Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew is hosted by the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area at its Trail Camp adjacent to the Sugar Grove Work Center. The Trail Crew season ended Aug. 12 this year, so we will not be sharing the facility with the crew. There may be some Forest Service volunteers and personnel using the facility at the same time we are there.

The main building houses dining and recreation facilities, an office, and the crew's tool room. Separate buildings provide a large, institutional kitchen and two shower houses, with bathroom and laundry facilities. Crew members sleep in simple cabins ("pods") near the shower houses, with beds and electricity.

Sugar Grove Base Camp

There are two shower/bathroom facilities located on the grounds, one is designated for men, the other for women. These will be pointed out on your tour of Base Camp.

Cell Phones

There is no cell phone reception at Konnarock Base Camp, the closest strong/reliable signal is in Marion (approx 15 miles away).

Internet

Base camp does have wireless internet, and you are welcome to bring your laptop for use while at Base Camp. We ask that internet users not view inappropriate material while using our internet....keep it at home.

Base Camp Common Area Phone

Although there is no cell phone signal at base camp, there is a common area phone that you may make calls with using a calling card (we do not have them for sale, BYOCC); please limit calls to 10 minutes as a courtesy to others. If you need to provide a number for family members to contact you while at base camp, the common area phone number is 276.677.4055.

Konnarock Base Camp Common Area Phone:	276.677.4055
Konnarock Base Camp Office Phone:	276.677.3393
Virginia Regional ATC Office Phone:	540.904.4393

Ample parking is available at basecamp. While we are in the field, please store your personal items in your locked vehicle.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: A message can be left for you at the three numbers listed above. Please notify loved ones that they may not be able to reach you prior to the evening of Saturday, July 16.

Equipment Information

Always prepare for the worst weather and, more than likely, you'll be quite comfortable. When packing clothing for the course, think in terms of a laying system which includes moisture-wicking skin layers, warmth-holding insulating layers and wind/water-proof shell layers. With these layers in various combinations, you will be warm and dry in most types of weather. Upon completion of registration you will receive the *Personal Equipment List* for specific suggestions on what to bring.

Group Gear: Certain gear is provided by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for the use of all participants. These items may include: tents, flys, ground cloths, cooking stoves, pots, pans, cooking utensils, first aid kits, repair kits, maps, trowels, and water purification items. You may be able to bring your own tent if you would like to, but we may ask you to share a tent with other participants to minimize the number of tents in use.

