

Adirondack Mountain Club's Julia Goren, Receives Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award

LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. - The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is pleased to announce that Education Director Julia Goren received the 2016 Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. This award is given annually to a person or organization who has demonstrated a long term commitment to protecting the physical and spiritual qualities of the mountain wilderness of the Northeast United States.

Julia joined ADK in 2004 as an Education intern and accepted the Summit Steward Coordinator position in 2006 and was promoted to Education Director. Julia works with ADK's school programs, workshops, Leave No Trace education, and oversees the High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program.

The High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program is a collaborative effort in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Funders include the Adirondack 46ers; ADK High Peaks Foundation and gear sponsors such as Outdoor Research, Vasque Boots and Darn Tough socks. Julia supervises 5 paid stewards and 20 volunteers.

As visits to the High Peaks climb year after year, the Summit Stewards, under Julia's guidance, have risen to the challenge of protecting the rare alpine plants, completing trail work and conducting research. In 2016 the stewards interacted with a record 36,355 hikers.

"The Adirondack Mountain Club is proud that our employee, Julia Goren, and her fine team of Summit Stewards were recognized for their incredible dedication and hard work in safeguarding our alpine summits and educating the largest number of climbers ever recorded in Leave No Trace principles and alpine plant preservation," said Neil F. Woodworth, Executive Director of ADK.

"The Waterman award is a tribute to the excellent work of Julia Goren and the stewards, and the power of engaging with people through conservation. The Summit Stewards empower hikers to become caretakers of the places they love," said Michael Carr, executive director of The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter, a founding partner. "This program is a force for positive change, not just for the Adirondack Park, but as a model for any place where people and nature must thrive together."

Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is a powerful voice protecting New York State's wild lands and waters. ADK is a nonprofit organization with 30,000 members in 27 chapters and 36 year-round staff offering programs that help people discover, play in, and protect natural places.

The Waterman fund fosters the spirit of wildness and conserves the alpine areas of northeastern North America. Its programs include the alpine steward award, grants for alpine research, education and trails, an essay contest focusing on stewardship and wildness, and the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering.