2026 SUMMIT STEWARD END OF SEASON REPORT



ADK | ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



Rachael adds rocks to a new scree wall on Marcy

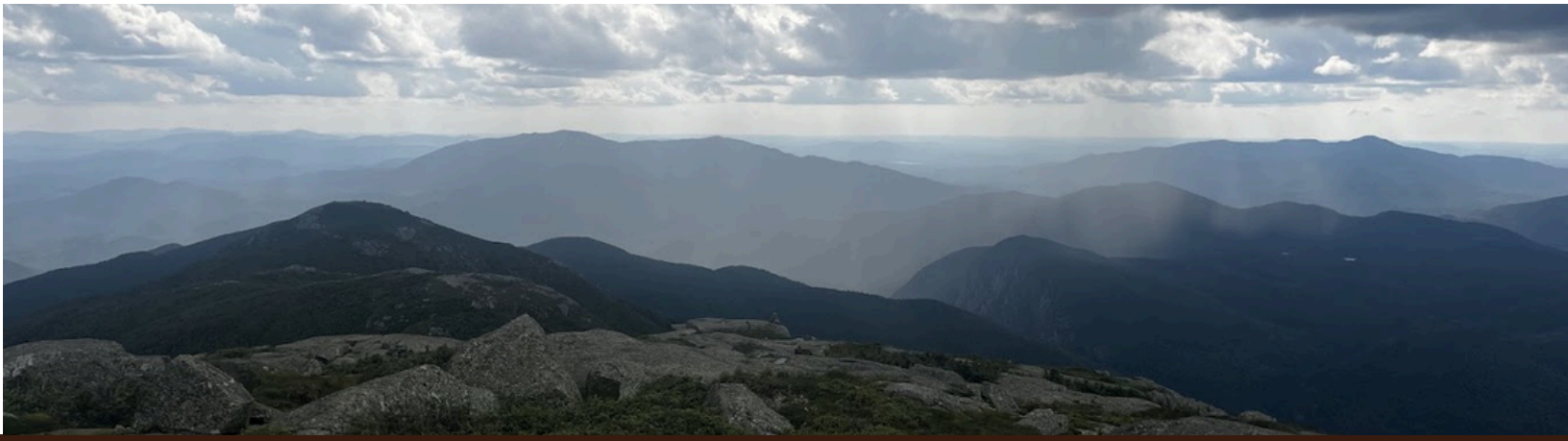


Max digs a new privy on Cascade

OVERVIEW

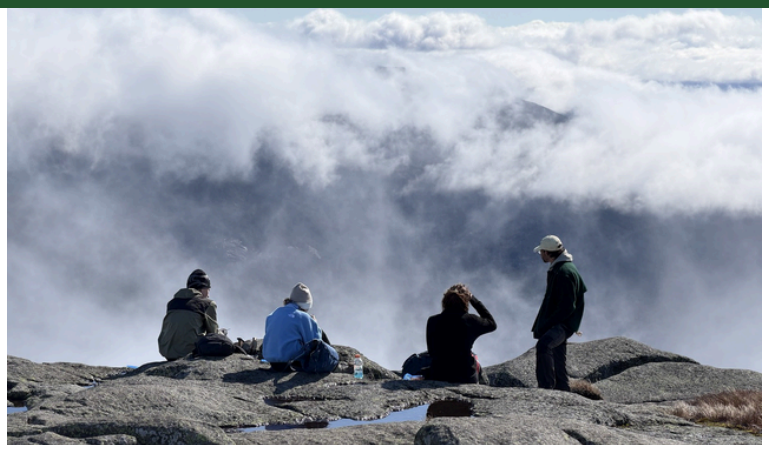
The Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program has wrapped up its 37th field season! We've grown a lot since our first season in 1990 with just two summit stewards. In the 2026 season, we hired a crew of five summit stewards, and in the fall, we maintained a crew of three summit stewards.

Summit stewards educated **24,639 visitors** this season, bringing our total contacts since the beginning of the program to **763,186!** The number of hikers educated this year is slightly lower than 2025, by about 2000 contacts, although some of this decrease may be explained by less coverage on the summits in August and early September when staff returned to college. We focused on maintaining coverage on Marcy and Algonquin, and volunteers were essential in helping us cover Cascade and other summits on the weekends. This drop in contacts is also suggestive of a broader trend of decreasing numbers of visitors here in the High Peaks since the pandemic. Still, regardless of the number of hikers stewards reach on a given day, we strive to make each interaction informative, welcoming, and memorable, inspiring recreators to spread the passion for stewardship to all who visit the alpine summits.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SPONSORS, AND PARTNERS!

Everything accomplished this season was made possible through the generous support of our partners, donors, sponsors, and people like you!



The Adirondack 46ers have supported the stewards for years and continue to fund the work that we do. ADK was awarded a grant to cover one summit steward position for this year and will fund a summit steward position in 2027. The Adirondack 46ers also provide key financial support for ADK's Professional Trail Crew. A big thank you goes out to the Adirondack 46ers and all the other trail crews who worked to open Avalanche Pass.

A special thank you to the folks at the Highpointers Foundation for funding a week of trail work on Marcy this fall, as well as generously providing staff with Lake Placid Brew Pub gift cards. Their support allowed us to tackle trail maintenance at high elevations on the Van Hoevenberg trail on Marcy. This work is critical in order to protect fragile alpine vegetation and makes it easier for hikers to navigate above tree line.

Thank you to the Waterman Fund for providing funding to help the program transition Katie into the Summit Steward Coordinator position. This grant provided funding to help cover two year-round full-time staff and training Katie in programmatic systems. Thanks also to the Glenns Falls-Saratoga ADK Chapter for organizing the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour screenings, the proceeds of which go toward supporting the Summit Stewardship Program.

A huge shoutout to our friends at The Mountaineer for their continued support. Summit stewards have received La Sportiva boots, Darn Tough socks, Rab Dryflo Solar shirts, as well as discounts on gear at The Mountaineer. These companies ensure that the stewards have the best equipment and outdoor clothing available. We can't thank them enough for everything they do to make sure the stewards are prepared for everything the alpine has to throw at them.

Thank you to L.L. Bean for donating hiking pants, shirts, and puffy jackets to the Summit Stewardship Program! L.L. Bean has continued to support ADK and the Summit Stewardship Program through gear donations, allowing our program to provide high-quality equipment to each steward.



L.L. Bean puffies keep stewards warm on the summits!

With sincere thanks to all our donors, and especially our recurring endowment supporters, sponsors, and High Peaks-level donors whose generosity sustains this program:

- #507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program
- The Nature Conservancy New York
- Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation
- Nine Pin Cider
- Will Cummer Gear Fund
- Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund

Thanks also to our program partner, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), for administrative, logistical, and financial support. Funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is administered by the NYS DEC. A big thanks goes to Hannah Praczkajlo, Osita Ezumah, Allison Rooney, Nate Jeffery, Jill Trunko, and Tate Connor for their continued guidance.

STATE OF THE SUMMIT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Every year, we include a list of projects that we hope to work on in the upcoming year and spend some time reflecting on the past season's accomplishments. Below you can see the 2026 project list in *italics* and future projects in **bold**.

Marcy Trail Maintenance

Our main focus over the course of the fall season was working on some much-needed high elevation trail maintenance on Marcy. We initially only planned on spending a week or two on Marcy, but it soon became apparent just how much work there was to do. We began by constructing a 105 ft long scree wall on the front side of Marcy, at the second cairn above tree line, along the east side of the trail.This was a spot where hikers would frequently wander off trail, realize their mistake, and then trample alpine plants to get back on trail. This new scree wall clearly marks the boundaries of the trail and will hopefully keep hikers on the bare rock.



Liam adds rocks to the new scree wall on Marcy



Rock packing, brushing, scree wall and string fence work in tandem to block off a herd path and mitigate existing damage

We also repaired two of the cairns and built a second scree wall on the backside of the summit, in order to better mark the trail down the backside. We noticed that many hikers were having a hard time finding the trail toward Four Corners and would wander straight down the backside instead of turning left and finding the line of cairns. These new scree walls will improve navigation and mitigate potential damage caused by hikers unknowingly wandering off trail.

In addition to building scree wall, we also focused on brushing in the many herd paths approaching the summit of Marcy. This last half mile of trail is quite steep and rocky, and many hikers cut through the vegetation to avoid particularly steep sections of bare rock. We find spiky, dead trees in the krummholz and drag them into the herd paths to disincentivize hikers from walking through the vegetation. We focused first on brushing in a herd path that we had previously unsuccessfully attempted to block with a scree wall. We also installed 90 ft of new string fencing to block the herd path. String fencing is a disruptive intervention that impacts the wilderness feel of the summit, so we only utilize it as a last resort after previous techniques have failed.



A photopoint technician resampling one of over 150 oblique photopoints.

Photopoint Monitoring Research

Looking ahead to 2027, we will be conducting our Photopoint Monitoring project across the alpine summits. Photopoint monitoring was established in 1999 as a long-term monitoring tool to better quantify the impacts of hiker trampling, the effects of management actions like trail maintenance and education, and document vegetation growth and recovery. We now have over 150 oblique photopoints and 41 transects, which we added in 2021 and 2022 to supplement with more quantitative data.

We are hoping to hire two full-time Photopoint Monitoring Field Technicians who will collect this data. In 2025 we resampled the newly established transects but will be resampling both transects and obliques in 2027. If you're interested in applying for one of these roles, we encourage you to keep an eye out for upcoming posts on the ADK Employment Page.

Repair bog bridging on Marcy

We were able to get a good amount of trail maintenance done on Marcy this season, both above and below tree line, however some of the infrastructure needs larger repairs. Looking ahead to next year, one of our goals is to repair the existing bog bridging in the bog before breaking tree line and add risers to lift the bog bridging out of the water. This maintenance occurs every few years as the bog bridging slowly sinks over time and planks degrade. When planks sink into the water, hikers walk on fragile plants to avoid getting their shoes wet or to avoid icy bog bridging during shoulder season. Repairing existing bridges is crucial to ensure that hikers stay on the marked trail and do not continue to expand herd path networks.

Increased coverage on Colden

The reopening of Avalanche pass in August brought a new influx of visitors to the area to check out the newly formed landslides and restored trails. The higher traffic in the area could lead to damage to Colden's fragile alpine ecosystems and necessitate more frequent steward visits. We were able to get over to Colden for a few days of trail work this season, however a more regular educational presence could also be highly beneficial.



We spent several days working on brushing in various areas above and below tree line, including a marshy section where hikers were cutting through, as well as several paths that had formed where hikers were cutting through plants to get to lookouts on either side of the trail. We also focused on preemptively brushing in areas that folks tend to cut through during shoulder season to minimize potential impacts.

Privy Replacement

Another exciting project that we managed to accomplish this fall is the much-needed relocation of several privies on Cascade and Algonquin. Regular privy maintenance gives hikers a place to go that is not on the alpine plants and is especially important on highly trafficked peaks like Cascade and Algonquin. We dug fresh holes, covered the waste from the previous holes, moved the thunderboxes and brushed in the area around the previous site for a much more enjoyable bathroom experience.



Max tests out a new privy on Cascade

Alpine Focused Teaching Herbarium

We are continuing our work on our new alpine focused teaching herbarium! Teaching herbaria are a type of herbarium (a collection of preserved plants) put together to help individuals learn to identify different species of plants.

Many summit stewards are not formally trained botanists; however, they do extensive work on the peaks inventorying and monitoring New York's alpine plant populations. Some species on the summits can be extremely tricky to identify in the field, but the goal is that having dried, correctly identified specimens available for stewards to study will help them be able to recognize those plants in the wild. As specimens are processed and mounted on archival paper, digitital records of this collection will be available online for reference.



Liam mounts a preserved plant specimen for the herbarium

PERSONNEL AND SCHEDULING



2026 Crew: Left to Right—Josiah Willink, Joshua Frament, Rachael Dickerson, Eva Jo Nielsen, Katie Leton (Summit Steward Coordinator), Callie Garnet

The 2026 crew was comprised entirely of newcomers to ADK, and they did an incredible job educating folks up on the summits. I'm super proud of everything we were able to accomplish this season, and it was a pleasure getting to work with all of them.

Rachael Dickerson—Rachael is new to the Summit Stewardship Program, but not to the Adirondacks, having worked previously as a trip leader for the La Vida Center for Outdoor Education and Leadership. She graduated from Gordon College this May with degrees in Biology and Data Science. She previously worked as an Assistant Forest Ranger down in the Catskills and is bringing her interpretive expertise up to the summits. In her free time, Rachael enjoys playing the harmonica, hanging out with her cats, and working on craft projects.

Joshua Frament—Josh comes to the Summit Stewardship Program with a passion for hiking and backcountry adventures and is already well on his way to completing his 46. He is a rising sophomore studying Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of Vermont. When not in the mountains or in class, he works part-time at Outdoor Gear Exchange, helping recreators find the best gear to suit their needs. Josh loves all things outside, from skiing to fishing to trail running, and is a great resource for anybody looking to push themselves outdoors.

Callie Garnet— Originally from Acton, Massachusetts, Callie is a senior at St. Lawrence University studying Environmental Science and Psychology. At school, Callie is a member of the sustainable living house, where she and her housemates worked together to organize a multiday folk festival at the end of the year. Callie has previously worked at a farmers' market and is extremely passionate about sustainable food systems and cooking with locally sourced ingredients.

Eva Jo Nielsen– Eva Jo is also a senior at St. Lawrence University and is originally from Rochester, New York. She is studying Environmental Studies with a minor in Outdoor Leadership. She's no stranger to living in the woods, having previously completed the Adirondack Semester offered by St. Lawrence. Eva Jo enjoys fern identification and is excited to share the skills she's learnt while working as an outdoor guide at school.

Josiah Willink– This is Josiah's first summer with the Adirondack Mountain Club and first summer working in the Adirondacks. He is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is currently a student at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, where he studies English Education and Art. Josiah is an enthusiastic birder, bass player, snowboarder, and hacky-sacker, and is always happy to have more people to sack with.

Max Faass (Fall)– Max joined the crew in mid-August after wrapping up another field season with Outward Bound North Carolina, where he works as an outdoor educator. Max is originally from the Midwest but is no stranger to the Northeast and was super excited to give back to a place that is near and dear to his heart. When not educating in the field or on the summits, Max loves all forms of playing outside, from biking to rock climbing and paddling. His enthusiasm and passion for stewardship are contagious.

Jack Batts (Fall)– Jack joined the crew in mid-September, after wrapping up work as a forestry technician in the state forests of Lancaster, New Hampshire. Jack is new to ADK and to the Adirondacks but has previously worked on the Appalachian Mountain Club's trail crew and recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. In the future, he hopes to continue to work to conserve critical habitats, whether that be alpine tundra or ecosystems damaged by forest fires.

Kayla White— Kayla is ADK's Stewardship Director. It's her twelfth year with the Summit Stewardship Program and her fourteenth year at ADK. Kayla oversees the full-time staff in charge of the Route 73 Trailhead Stewards, Summit Stewards, and ADK's volunteer and Professional Trail Crews.

Liam Ebner— Liam is ADK's Stewardship Manager. It is their sixth year with the Summit Stewardship Program and with ADK. This year, Liam will be overseeing ADK's newest stewardship program, the Route 73 Trailhead Stewardship Program, and continuing to oversee the Hurricane Fire Tower Stewardship Program. He will also continue to be heavily involved in all things alpine, from collecting new specimens for the teaching herbarium to analyzing photopoint data and collaborating with researchers from other organizations.

K**atie Leton**—Katie is ADK's Summit Steward Coordinator. This is her fourth year with the Summit Stewardship Program, but her first year overseeing the program. When she is not in the field she can be found rock climbing, swimming, or curling up with a good book.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS!

Our volunteers are an incredible group of dedicated stewards, many of whom have been with the program for multiple years. Without their help, there is no way we would be able to fully staff the peaks or accomplish essential trail maintenance and research projects. This year, volunteers spent a total of **63 times** on the summits and educated **5319 hikers**; 22% of the total number of hikers educated this season. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer summit steward for next year, you can reach out to me and follow this link for more information about the program!

- Mary Lamb—14th year
- Jack Coleman—13th year volunteer, 2 years staff
- Drew Benware—7th year
- Klarisse Torriente—6th year
- Matt Szopa—6th year
- Angela Ranzini—5th year
- Tyler Lucero—5th year
- Tony Goodwin—5th year
- Caitlin Glynn—4th year
- Carla Denn-- 4th year
- Mark Epstein—4th year
- Kristen Peek— 3rd year
- David Palat—3rd year
- Eric Colvin—1st year
- Peyton Reigel— 3rd year, Hurricane
- Bob Hunter— 6th year with ADK, Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- Mary Jean Bland—Friends of Hurricane Mountain



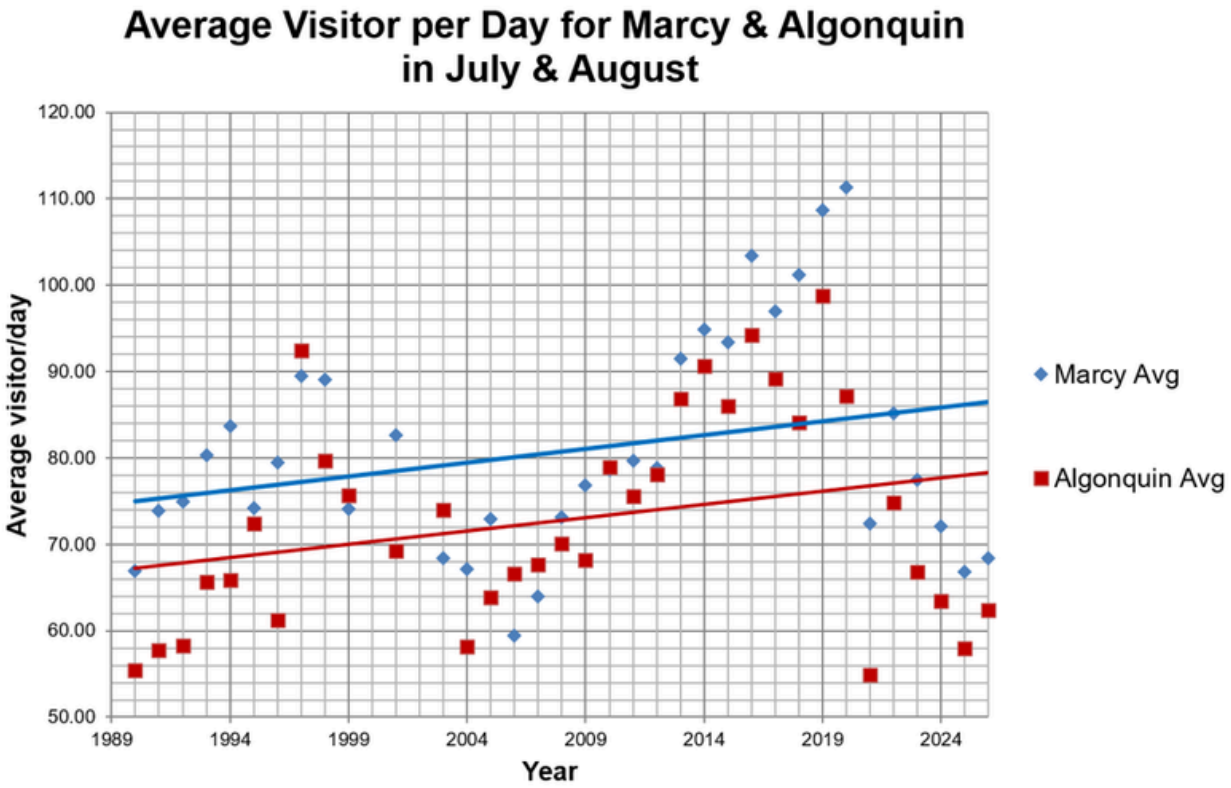
Liam and I held a virtual training for volunteers in May. We sent new and returning volunteers training videos and documents to review, and they had to take an online assessment after reviewing the materials. We then had a Zoom meeting to go over any lingering questions. We were joined by DEC High Peaks Wilderness Land Manager Tate Connor who gave his presentation on the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and Forest Ranger Osita Ezumah who went over radio protocol and personal safety training.

EDUCATION: USAGE AND OUTREACH

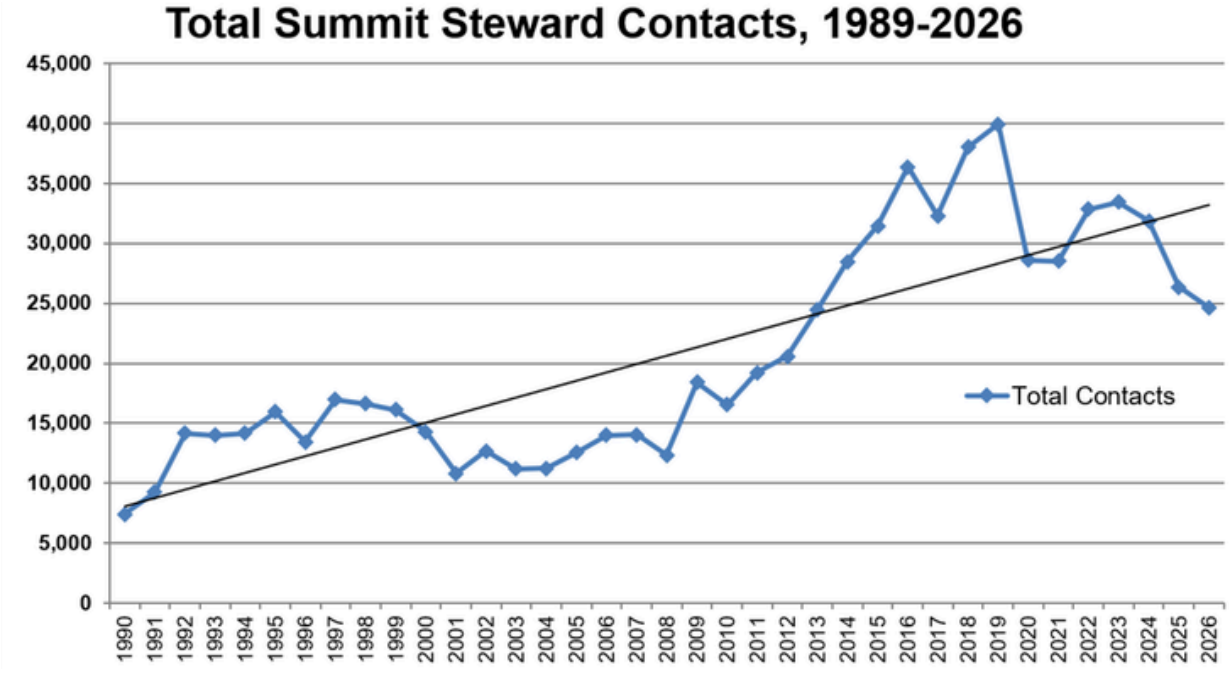
Year	Total Contacts	Days Covered	Average
2026	**24,639**	**368**	**67**
2025	26,410	410	64
2024	31,874	389	82
2023	33,421	442	76
2022	32,844	408	81
2021	28,514	428	67
2020	28,605	315	91
2019	39,939	393	102
2018	38,033	349	109
2017	31,625	305	104
2016	36,355	334	109
2015	31,440	344	91
2014	28,488	312	91
2013	23,804	305	78
2012	20,567	269	77
Total Contacts 1990–2026: 763,186			

As seen in the table above, our total number of contacts is slightly lower than the 2025 season, but not by much. This drop in contacts was largely caused by a drop in coverage as compared with the 2025 season. In 2025, we started out with six summit stewards, and we were able to retain a full crew of five stewards throughout the fall. This year, we started with a total of five stewards, but four out of five crew members left to go back to school in early August, leaving us with only one remaining steward during our busiest summer month. Liam, Kayla, and Katie all stepped in to ensure that Marcy and Algonquin had consistent coverage over some of those busy late August weeks, but there were some gaps in coverage on summits like Wright, Giant, Cascade, and Hurricane. We had 42 fewer times stewards were on the summits than 2025, and 23 of those times were in August. Going forward it will be important to try and find stewards who can stay through the fall season so we don't encounter the same coverage issues. Our overall season average of hikers educated per day was 67 which, although slightly more than 2025's average of 64 interactions per stewarding shift, is still down when compared with pre-pandemic numbers.

In 2024, we broke 200 hikers 26 times, and this past year there were only 12 days when stewards talked to over 200 people. We did have several busy weekends in the fall, with beautiful weather and peak fall foliage bringing an influx of visitors to the region. The Heart Lake hiker parking lots were full by 5:15 A.M. the Saturday before Indigenous People's Day, and 5:30 A.M. on the Saturday of Indigenous People's Day weekend. Full parking lots were not enough to deter recreators however, and on Saturday, October 3rd, High Peaks Information staff counted **469 cars** parked along Loj Road. While it's hard to determine exactly where all of the recreators were heading, Mt. Jo has seen a spike in popularity in recent years due to social media exposure.



The chart above compares the daily average of contacts on Marcy and Algonquin for July and August. This is the best comparison we have for observing trends in usage since the beginning of the program when there were only two stewards covering Marcy and Algonquin. This chart shows general trends in visitors educated, while negating changes in the number of staff and volunteers over time. The daily average on both summits in July and August is slightly up when compared with 2025 averages, but are still much lower than the pre-pandemic numbers. Even though our overall contact numbers are down for this year, these slightly higher averages could indicate that the summits were slightly busier than in 2025. We are currently analyzing additional trailhead data to see if that trend is reflected there.



We have been seeing a consistent decline in users over the past 6 years. It is hard to pin down the exact cause of this decrease in visitors to the summits. Has messaging about alternative hikes outside of the High Peaks Wilderness Area been successful in dispersing visitors? Perhaps hikers are seeking out other more easily accessible roadside hikes instead of vying for a parking spot at the Garden or at the Loj. How much of a role does the reduced number of Canadian tourists play in the decline in usage? What about the influence of social media and the increasing popularity of viral hikes such as Indian Head and Mt. Jo? It is impossible to predict what next year's numbers will look like, and it remains to be seen if this trend will continue as visitation patterns evolve.

OUTREACH

As for Outreach, Liam traveled over to Vermont in June to work with the Green Mountain Club (GMC) and help train their staff in photopoint monitoring. GMC also tracks vegetation changes over time on Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest summit, using a photopoint monitoring method very similar to what we use. ADK is always happy to help other organizations with training, especially in photopoint monitoring. In the past three years, ADK has assisted in photopoint monitoring for three other organizations.

In September, Liam met with an Environmental Science class at the Adirondak Loj from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. This class has been making annual trips to the High Peaks to see rare ecosystems on the summits to complement their classroom studies. After a Friday evening alpine ecology lecture, the class headed up Algonquin on Saturday morning and met up with Katie to see everything in person.

In addition to providing photopoint training, we also gave a presentation about the program and alpine zone to the La Vida Center for Outdoor Education and Leadership. In October, Liam traveled to Massawepie Scout Camp in Tupper Lake to provide a Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop as part of their October Odyssey weekend.

Also in October, Kayla, Liam, and Katie traveled to Maine for the 14th Northeastern Alpine Stewardship Gathering, hosted by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club with support from the Waterman Fund. At the Gathering, researchers, stewards, and land managers came together to discuss the alpine areas across the northeast region, including challenges and success over the last two years. I presented on the program, and Liam gave a poster presentation on the teaching herbarium. Thank you to all of the folks at the Waterman Fund, the MATC, and Sugarloaf Mountain for making the conference happen.



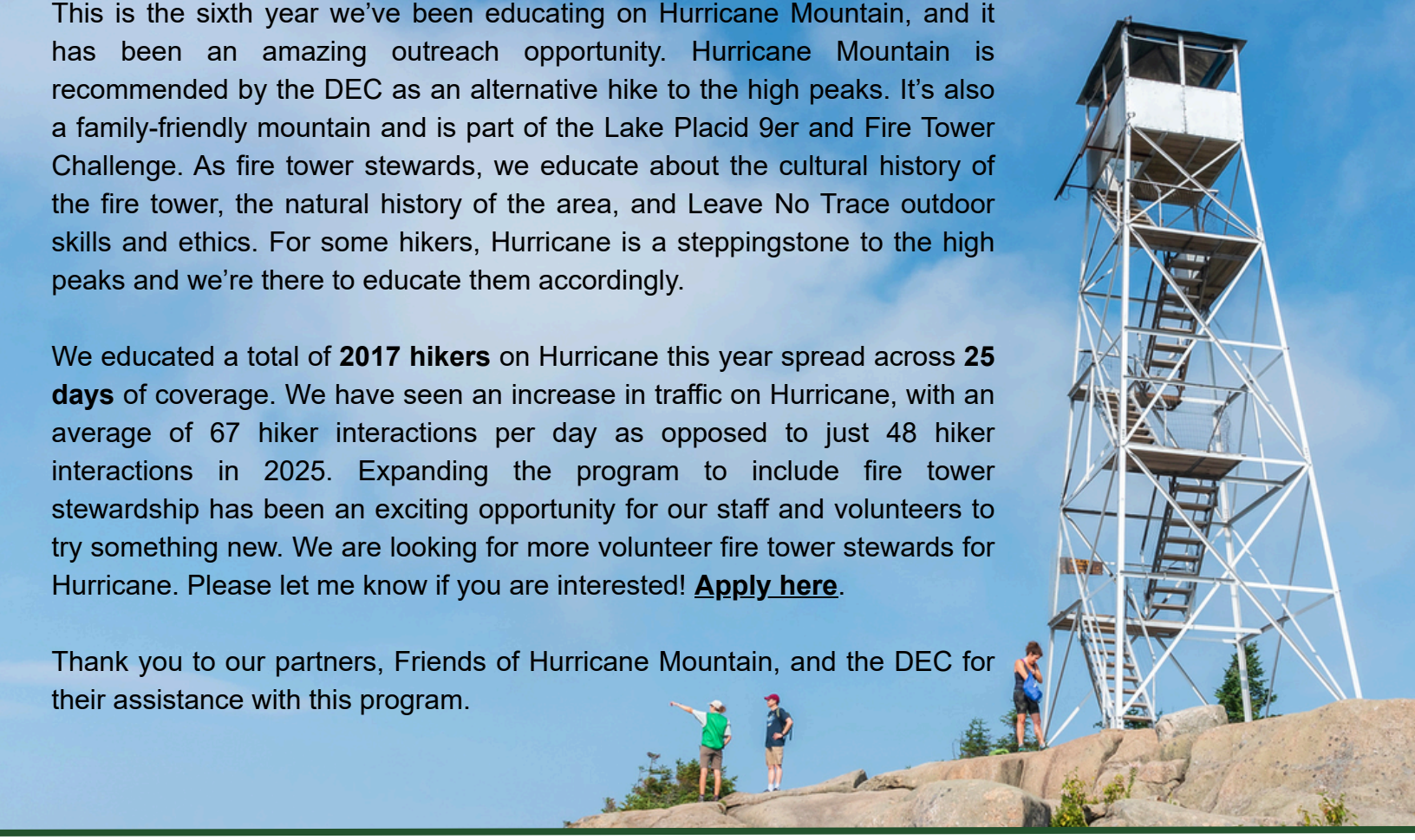
Liam with their teaching herbarium poster at the NEASG

HURRICANE FIRE TOWER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

This is the sixth year we've been educating on Hurricane Mountain, and it has been an amazing outreach opportunity. Hurricane Mountain is recommended by the DEC as an alternative hike to the high peaks. It's also a family-friendly mountain and is part of the Lake Placid 9er and Fire Tower Challenge. As fire tower stewards, we educate about the cultural history of the fire tower, the natural history of the area, and Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics. For some hikers, Hurricane is a steppingstone to the high peaks and we're there to educate them accordingly.

We educated a total of **2017 hikers** on Hurricane this year spread across **25 days** of coverage. We have seen an increase in traffic on Hurricane, with an average of 67 hiker interactions per day as opposed to just 48 hiker interactions in 2025. Expanding the program to include fire tower stewardship has been an exciting opportunity for our staff and volunteers to try something new. We are looking for more volunteer fire tower stewards for Hurricane. Please let me know if you are interested! **Apply here**.

Thank you to our partners, Friends of Hurricane Mountain, and the DEC for their assistance with this program.



BOTANY AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

This year marks the eighteenth year of our participation in Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) Mountain Watch phenology program. We monitor the phenological stages of four species at standardized monitoring areas in line with the National Phenology Network (NPN). AMC uses this data to analyze long term trends in the timing of the different phenological stages, which could be an indication of the effects of climate change on the alpine ecosystem. AMC has also implemented the Northeast Alpine Flower Watch, a community science project which asks hikers to use iNaturalist, available on mobile and desktop, to take pictures of six alpine species in their blooming and fruiting phenophases. Hopefully, this will help create a more robust and complete data set. Feel free to download iNaturalist and participate!

Over the season, Josiah, Rachael, and Eva Jo were able to complete Peak Health Reports on Dix and Colden. Peak Health Reports are a periodic review of alpine summits that are completed every few years. These reports document erosion, trail infrastructure, vegetation occurrences, and alpine trail maintenance which help us determine where to complete projects in the future.

Liam also made it up Saddleback Mountain in June to complete sampling for Mountain Bird Watch. Mountain Bird Watch is administered by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) and monitors high-elevation breeding bird populations. This study is important to understand how these higher elevation bird species populations are changing over time, especially with climate change. Sites for this project range from the Catskills up to Maine. VCE might be looking for new route adopters for the 2027 season! Check out their website to see how you can get involved.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND PROJECT DAYS

This year, we focused our efforts on maintaining the busiest trails, but we were still able to get out for a few project days across the high peaks. Stewards worked on Marcy, Algonquin, Iroquois, Wright, Colden, Skylight, and Dix. The cairns on Hurricane did not have any issues, and the rebuilt cairns on Wright are in great shape. This fall, we focused on brushing and scree wall building on Marcy. We maintained the scree wall on the backside, as well as added two new sections of scree wall to better mark the trail on the front side and just over the summit. This came out to 200 ft of new scree wall added, as well as an estimated 400 ft of brushing.



New scree wall marks the trail on the backside of Marcy

We also repaired several cairns on Marcy and Algonquin, relocated privies on Cascade and on Algonquin, and added new string fencing on Marcy. As always, the crew has been steadily chipping away at scree wall maintenance, cairn repair, rock packing, and regular brushing throughout the season.

	Scree Wall	Brushing	Rock Pack	Cairn Rocks Removed	Cairns Rebuilt	Poop Buried
Algonquin	446	225	34	59	4	1
Cascade	395	75	0	0	1	3
Colden	10	170	4	0	0	0
Hurricane	0		10	0	0	0
Iroquois	10	60	0	15	0	0
Marcy	445	737	47	37	3	7
Skylight	75	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	66	0	15	0	0	0
Grand Total	**1,447 ft**	**1,267 ft**	**146 sq ft**	**111 rocks**	**8 cairns**	**11 poops**

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are a few things that we look forward to doing in the upcoming year:

- Hiring two Photopoint Technicians.
- Continuing to expand and improve the Volunteer Summit Stewardship Program and Hurricane Fire Tower Stewardship Program and build up volunteer numbers for coverage on Hurricane, Giant (weekends), and Cascade (every day in July & August).
- Completing Peak Health Reports on summits where the previous reports are ten years old.
- Establishing a more consistent stewardship presence on Colden and across the Great Range.
- Working to continue to provide public outreach programs to camp groups, college clubs, and other organizations to expand our visibility and spread our alpine stewardship message. (Please contact me if you are interested!)



The fall crew, 2026! Back: Max Faass, Rachael Dickerson, Jack Batts. Front: Katie Leton.

THANK YOU!



As always, the Summit Stewardship Program would not be possible without the support and funding from several organizations and individuals. We'd like to thank the following organizations:

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
- Adirondack 46ers
- Will Cummer Gear Fund
- #507 Fund for the Summit Stewardship Program
- Dr. Norton G. Miller Memorial Fund
- Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation
- Nine Pin Cider
- Waterman Fund
- The Highpointers Foundation
- ORDA and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center for access to the summit of Whiteface via the Memorial Highway
- The Mountaineer
- Environmental Protection Fund
- L.L.Bean
- La Sportiva
- Darn Tough
- Rab
- Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter
- New York Natural Heritage Program

And individuals:

DEC: Tate Connor, Andrew Lewis, Jenna Curcio, Charlie Foutch, Nicole Duchene,, Hanna Praczkajlo, Allison Rooney, Nate Jeffery, Osita Ezumah, Alicia Bodmer and the entire Ray Brook Dispatch team, Bob Ripp, Rob Daley; Andrew Miller, Wilson Cummer, Volunteer Summit Stewards and Fire Tower Stewards, Seth Jones (TNC) Julia Goren (ARTA), Dave Kanietakeron Fadden (SNICC), Anna Forsman and Martha Swan (JBL!), Tamara Jolly and Lucienne Nicholson (ADI),Tim Howard (NYNHP), Aaron Kellet (Whiteface), Wes Testo (UVM), James Lendemer (NYSM), Vinny McClelland, Charlie Wise and the entire staff of The Mountaineer, and all ADK staff.

I am very proud of what our amazing team of staff and volunteers was able to accomplish this season. From brushing in hundreds of feet of herd paths on Marcy to moving privies and educating in 50+ mph wind and hail, we completed important work, provided a welcoming and educational experience to thousands of visitors, and ensured that New York's alpine habitat continues to thrive. None of this could have been possible without the support, guidance, and encouragement from every one of you. I would like to extend a special thank you to Liam and Kayla for guiding me through my first season as Summit Steward Coordinator. I have learned so much from them both and they have done their absolute best to ensure that the transition went as smoothly as possible as I settled into my role. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in this position and working to continue to make the Summit Stewardship Program the very best that it can be.

Sincerely yours,

Katie Leton
Summit Steward Coordinator
katieL@adk.org
she/her/hers

&

Kayla White
Stewardship Director
kaylaW@adk.org
she/her/hers