

Arizona Trail Association Volunteer Program Report

7/2019 – 10/2019

Volunteer Hours Reported: 6,748

Unique Volunteers Engaged: 1,131

Key Events and Programs:

Happy Jack Singletrack:

After a pause in large volunteer projects to avoid the monsoons, we're ready to finish the final construction on the Happy Jack project. We have 3 events planned simultaneously the last week of October to bring this major project to completion, including a Volunteer Vacation with more than 17 participants and a full Trail Skills Institute class. Our Completion Celebration is scheduled for October 26-27th at Bargaman Park, with a potluck and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate an amazing success for the ATA!

Babbitt Ranch Singletrack

Off the road again. Just can't wait to get off the road again... Three volunteer events have been hosted on the Babbitt Ranch project since the last report. This open stretch of land that seems so remote to many of us has actually captured hearts in a whole new way. Between events hosted by Stagecoach Race organizer Ian Torrance (July), FKT hopeful Helen Galerakis (Sept) and our Steward's Trail Crew Leader Training (October) we had more than 50 volunteers donate more than 350 hours to getting this project off the road. More events to come in 2020.

Regional Stewards Meeting

ATA Regional Stewards met in Payson to strategize changes to the ATA Steward program and overall trail management. It was an opportunity to get these geographically separated people in the same room and close to the same page.

Trail Skills Institute

The September class for Modules 1 & 2 was our third-straight sold-out version of that training, and again received high praises from participants. Matt Roberts from Flagline Trails is working with us to revamp the Institute in 2020 with changes to existing modules and the addition of new modules including trail construction and obliteration. Modules 1 & 2 will become a 2-day training to get into more depth on the material and allow more time on the trail with tools (a common request by participants and instructors alike). There is one remaining course in 2019 for Stone Maintenance Structures (which will become Trail Structures in 2020).

Latino Conservation Week

The ATA hosted a film festival in celebration of Latino Conservation Week in Flagstaff and Tucson. 3 short films focusing on the interaction of people and the desert landscape were shown. The Hispanic Access Fund promotes LCW each year as a way to support the Latino community getting outdoors and participating in activities to protect our natural resources.

National Public Lands Day

Once again hosting events in Flagstaff and Tucson, the ATA partnered with REI to get folks out on the trail for NPLD. Between the two events and the general efforts of ATA steward and volunteers on that date, over 75 volunteers were on the AZT for NPLD.

Autumn Steward Conference

The Arizona Nordic Village once again hosted our Steward conference earlier this month. 22 stewards gathered in the yurt to learn about strategic trail monitoring, the volunteer management system and the USFS Saw Policy. Crew leader training on Babbitt Ranches included taking turns wearing the "leader hat" - literally a bright orange hard hat that conveyed special powers (responsibilities) upon the wearer.

New Stewards:

David Simmons (Passage 41b - Kaibab Plateau; Tom and Cuyler Boughner (34b – San Francisco Peaks); Peter Runge (34d – San Francisco Peaks); Roger Benefield (37 b-c – Grand Canyon South Rim).

New Volunteer Hours Reward System

We've developed a system to reward volunteer for hours that they enter into our data system. This not only serves as a way to recognize our very hard working volunteers, but also provides incentive for taking the extra time required to document hours. By associating a value *to volunteers* to entering the time, we will communicate that there is value *to the association* in that practice.

A summary of the program is available on the website at aztrail.org/get-involved/volunteer-rewards. Information on this program was rolled out at the Steward Conference and will be further distributed through the seasonal Steward Letter and a series of emails to the general volunteer corps.

ATA VOLUNTEERISM BENEFITS

Volunteerism isn't just another part of what the ATA does – it's the driving force that powers our accomplishments. There are many rewards that come from giving back to the trail: the fun of working outside, meeting great trail people, and learning to see the trail in a whole new way. For most of us – that's reward enough. However, the ATA wants to recognize the contribution of our hardworking volunteers.

Check out the benefits of recording volunteer hours with the ATA below – then [sign up for our next work opportunity!](#)

Track your progress by logging your hours [into the volunteer system](#) and watch your badges pile up.



4 HOURS – I MADE A DIFFERENCE!

- Fun, camaraderie and skill development (this comes free with every hour you give!)
- Invitation to future ATA volunteer events and appreciation activities

25 HOURS – BRONZE

- Coupon for 23% off of one REI Co-op Brand Item, Class or Outing from our sponsors at [REI](#)
- Resets annually

50 HOURS – SILVER

- Arizona Trail Bucket Hat or Ball Cap (we'd pin a star on your shirt, but it'd probably just get dusty anyway)
- Resets annually

100 HOURS* – ORANGE HAT BRIGADE

- Personalized Orange Hard Hat – this marks you as a seasoned Trail Dog! – OR –
- Embroidered personalized sun hat or fleece cap (you can't get THESE in the store!)
- Recognition in Newsletter and at Annual Meeting



250 HOURS* – YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE

- Embroidered long-sleeve Royal Robbins shirt with 250 hour logo – You've shown how much you love the trail – we want everyone to see it when you walk in the room!
- Recognition in Newsletter and at Annual Meeting

500 HOURS* – TRAIL BOSS

- Trail Boss Backpack filled with personal Trail Tools. Custom pack with the ATA logo, 500 Hour Badge and your personalization. We'll make sure the finest tools are at your fingertips!
- Recognition in Newsletter and at Annual Meeting

**100,250 and 500 Hour awards are cumulative and do not reset each year. Once you've reached 500 you get to start all over!*



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