

Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail Crew Volunteer

Job Description

Some of our Trail Ambassadors are also members of the Trail Crew, who perform regular maintenance on the trail. That includes blowing leaves and debris from the trail, removing trees that fall over the trail, repairing erosion issues, and grooming the trail for cross-country skiing in the winter. Trail Crew members receive additional training and are assigned a regular work schedule with other Trail Crew members on a rotation of about once a month.

Trail Crew Duties:

1. Trail Crew volunteers are responsible for keeping the trail safe for all users by maintaining trail shoulder and operating a blower to keep trail clear from debris and leaves. The crew volunteers will also remove trees and branches from trail with chainsaw and other equipment, as needed. Chainsaw operators must be trained and certified by NPS trainers. If volunteering in the winter, you could be operating a snow groomer preparing the trail for cross-country skiing.
2. Trail Crew members are scheduled to be on-duty on a regular basis. Trail Crew schedules are set up via e-mail, and each week a Trail Crew members have the opportunity to get on the schedule.
3. It is very important to keep track and report your volunteer hours including transit time to and from the trail. **Report the hours worked on the form located on a clipboard at the Maintenance garage in Glen Haven.**
4. Following each task, Trail Crew members are responsible to complete maintenance checklists depending on the equipment they used.

Required Experience

Ability to walk, ski, or ride your bike several miles on the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail.
Access to the internet for scheduling and some online training.

Required Training

- Initial training is provided by the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes.
- Gator operators must take the ORV training class and be certified. This course has been an online course, but the NPS is planning to have an on-site training course starting in 2018.
- We encourage our Trail Crew members to take the NPS Hand Tool Training class.
- We encourage Trail Crew members to take a CPR / First Aid class and maintain their certification.
- Chainsaw operators must be trained and certified by NPS trainers. This is a 4-day course plus a required 1-day CPR and First Aid training.
- Trail Crew members who will be grooming the trail for cross-country skiing will be trained by Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes in November or December.

Time Commitment

The time commitment is approximately 2-4 hours for a work shift. Typically, volunteers will work one to three shifts per month. As a volunteer, you will be sent job requests by e-mail and you can volunteer to assist based on your availability. Some of our Trail Crew members are only available part of the year and others are here through all seasons.