



Volunteer Position Description: Campsite Adopter

QUALIFICATIONS: A Campsite Adopter must be able and willing to do basic maintenance tasks on an assigned campsite and its spur trails (trail to campsite, trail to latrine, trail to water source if applicable) at least twice per year.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Follow the rules and policies of the Superior Hiking Trail Association, including general Trail rules such as keeping dogs on leashes and abiding by the SHTA Personal Safety Policy.
- Monitor and maintain the assigned campsite and its spur trails once in the spring (preferably by June 1) and once in the fall (preferably by November 1).
 - Communicate as soon as possible the inability to make it in any given season so a substitute may be assigned.
- Follow guidelines for maintenance as laid out in the following pages, including the following tasks:
 - Maintain the campsite spur trails (remove small logs, lop brush)
 - Maintain campsite signage (take down bad signs; report missing signs)
 - Clean out the fire ring
 - Carry out and dispose of any waste left behind
 - Improve campsite furniture; report to SHTA if it's falling apart
 - Monitor the latrine waste level
 - Monitor the latrine structure
 - Reporting hazard trees
- Report the work done and the hours contributed via an online form or paper form
- For volunteers on Forest Service property, sign the Forest Service Volunteer Services Agreement form and abide by all Forest Service regulations.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES:

The Superior Hiking Trail Association can provide tools, personal protective equipment and, with advance notice, other supplies as needed. Please bring loppers with you when you visit your campsite. A hammer and nails are often useful. We hope that volunteers can provide their own gloves, a trowel, and a disposable bag.



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TASKS FOR EACH VISIT:

1. Maintain any campsite-specific spur trails:

- Campsite-specific spur trails include the path to the latrine and may include a spur trail to the campsite from the main SHT and/or a spur trail to a water source.
- Use loppers to remove vegetation that is encroaching on the path(s).
- Cut brush as close to the ground as possible and cut branches close to but not flush with the trunk. Leave about ¼-1/2" of square-cut branch remaining. This will allow the tree to heal the cut better. When pruning branches off a tree, try to make all cuts in this way, as opposed to just cutting the branch at the point that it nears the trail. If the tree is 3" or less in diameter, remove the whole tree if major pruning is necessary. When you visit in spring, remember that the growing season has barely begun: do not be shy about cutting back brush. It will grow back all too quickly.

2. Maintain campsite signage:

- Campsite signage should include the following:
 1. Campsite name sign at entrance to the campsite
 2. Campsite rules sign either within the campsite or at its entrance
 3. Latrine sign at entrance to spur trail to latrine
- Use loppers to clear any brush away from the signs so they are clearly visible.
- Report any issues with signage. If you need replacement signage, SHTA can usually get that new signage to you for your next visit.
- Maintain signposts, if applicable. In some cases campsites are marked with signage on a post. If this applies to your campsite, please ensure that the post is stable and shore it up with rocks to the best of your ability.



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3. Clean out the fire ring:

- Use a shovel or trowel to remove ashes from the fire ring.
- Please scatter the ashes 100 feet or more from the campsite.
- Remove any trash from the fire ring. Clean down to mineral soil each visit.
- If campers are currently using the fire ring, do not attempt to scatter hot ashes; it can wait until your next visit.
- If necessary, dismantle and erase the trace of any hiker-made campfire rings.

4. Dispose of any waste:

- If any trash is present, pack it out. Organic waste (such as an orange peel) is occasionally left by those who think it will decompose quickly (it will not and will attract animals). Micro trash (tiny bits of wrappers, etc.) often falls out of pockets and is inadvertently left behind.
- If any pet waste is present, you can put it into the latrine.

5. Improve campsite furniture:

- In the upcoming years we will be transitioning away from treated lumber benches and to natural and locally-sourced campsite furniture.
- Traditional campsite benches that are solid can remain through their natural lifespan; please assess the benches for stability and if possible, shore up the benches to make them safer.
- Let us know if you think the campsite furniture is beyond repair. We have a specialized crew to deal with these sites.

If you are interested in rehabilitating your campsite's benches, please let us know and we can set you up for that task.



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6. Monitor the latrine waste level:

- Our goal is for waste to *never* rise above ground level.
- Estimate the distance between the waste and *ground level, not the seat where you sit.*
- Please note: latrines may fill with water, especially in the spring. If you suspect this for any reason, please let us know, as we *do not want to re-dig a latrine in this situation.* It can be hard to tell because in most cases, the water floats the contents of the latrine to the surface, so you see waste and toilet paper, not water. Here are some ways to determine if the latrine is full of water:
 - Is the top of the “mass” inside the latrine relatively flat? It can be at ground level or lower, depending on how much water is in the hole. Usually, contents form more of a cone shape.
 - Does the toilet paper look like it is completely saturated with water (not just wet, as if from rain)?
 - Can you see water in the hole, or is there water visibly seeping from or overflowing the hole?
 - Are there people fishing?

By carefully estimating the space left in a latrine, you help SHTA accurately triage the latrines on the to-dig list. Please take an extra moment during this task to be as thorough as possible. Your latrine assessment may lead to a latrine digger making the trip to your campsite and we don't want to deploy them unnecessarily.

7. Monitor the latrine structure:

- Check the latrine structure for damage or wear and tear due to age and determine if it is structurally sound. Major structural problems may need to be dealt with immediately. Other minor issues (like cracks or holes) that still allow the latrine to function as intended can be dealt with later, but should still be noted.
- If the latrine has wooden runners (not present on the newer, square shaped latrines) note their condition. If the runners that extend beyond



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the fiberglass base are rotten, they need to be replaced, as they are important in the stability of the latrine for future re-digs.

- Check the latrine to make sure it is level. Over time, one corner or whole side can settle, sometimes so much as to make it nearly impossible to sit on. Besides being uncomfortable, this can shorten the life of the hole. This can sometimes be fixed, but often needs proper tools and experience. Please take a photo and let SHTA decide the course of action to take.
- Note any holes around (especially in the front) of latrine. Holes around the latrine can widen and allow unwanted material (dirt, rocks, people) to fall into the hole. Holes can and should be fixed, but as above, often require the proper tools and experience. Take a picture.
- Sometime small or even large animals will burrow into a latrine, causing similar problems. This is usually because campers have thrown leftover food into the latrine. Nasty! Don't pet the marmot on these sites. This could be an opportunity for a Leave No Trace-teaching moment if campers are present and there is fresh food at the top of the pile.

8. Note any dead or hazard trees:

- Report any standing dead trees in the campsite area, as these can pose a hazard. A picture of the tree in question helps us determine the course of action. Also report any trees that have fallen within the campsite. Remember, only certified sawyers are allowed to use a chainsaw on the SHT and volunteers do not fell standing trees.

If campers are currently using the site...

...introduce yourself and your role and continue with your tasks! Most campers are very happy to meet an SHTA volunteer and may even offer a hand. The only task that may not be possible during a visit to an occupied campsite is to empty the fire ring.

If while volunteering at your campsite you witness poor camper behavior, you may politely remind them of trail rules. Many users of the SHT are first-time hikers and backpackers and may not understand the impact they are having on the SHT and its resources.



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After you volunteer...

- Remember to return any tools and/or unused supplies.
- Keep track of how many volunteer hours you spent. SHTA now tracks transit time in addition to time spent on the Trail.
- Fill out the Campsite Adopter form online or request a hard copy.