



Volunteer Position Description: Elite Latrine Digging Squad

QUALIFICATIONS: A member of the Elite Latrine Digging Squad is willing and able to attend an ELDS training and commit to digging at least two latrines over the course of the next year.

LOGISTICS: After training, a Google Doc will be shared with all members of the ELDS. Volunteers may claim a latrine to dig by writing in their first and last names in the appropriate field. Please be aware that although we do our very best to confirm which latrines need to be dug, occasionally we do receive false information.

Why this? Why now?

- Increased use of the Superior Hiking Trail means an increased use in human waste. Campsite latrines are used not only by backpackers, but also by day hikers and runners.
- Under current usage patterns, a campsite's latrine generally lasts 2-3 years, but many of them need to be dug yearly.

After signing up for a latrine on the Google Doc, contact SHTA staff to learn if there are any shortcuts to your destination. There may be an easier way to get there than what you see in the Guidebook.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Using the Google Doc, commit to digging at least two latrines over the course of the year following the ELDS training.
- 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.
- 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.



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TOOLS and SUPPLIES:

The Superior Hiking Trail Association can provide limited tools, personal protective equipment and, with advance notice, other supplies as needed.

- **Shovel:** We hope that volunteers can supply their own gloves and a shovel. Note that the shovel will be used *exclusively* for digging dirt and should not come into contact with any non-dirt substance.
- **Probe:** SHTA has a few of these we can lend out. It's a steel or fiberglass rod 36"-48" long with a "T" handle on it used for probing into the ground to find a spot with sufficient soil depth and clear of large rocks before selecting a site. VERY HELPFUL!
- **Nippers:** These are very useful in cutting roots, either on the surface, or ones that you may encounter while digging. The inside of the hole should be as clean as possible of protruding roots, as toilet paper gets caught on these. Also used for brushing if a new trail to latrine is made.
- **Grub Hoe/Pick Mattock, with detachable head, 2 lb:** Useful in prying up old latrine and other tasks, but mainly used for "belling" the latrine, or chopping and scraping out the sides and bottom as you get deeper (used without handle)
- **Scraper Hard Hat:** Must be an EXPIRED hard hat, with the brim only in the front (or cut off) and the guts (the webbing and attachment clips from the inside) removed. This works great for scraping at the sides and bottom and scooping dirt out of the hole. It is lightweight and durable. There are probably other things on the market that would work for this, get creative!
- **Collapsible Bucket:** Also handy for getting dirt out of hole, but does not scoop well, dirt must be shoveled into bucket.
- **Digging Bar/Rock Bar:** HEAVY! Not something that you would want bring on a long hike, but if your latrine is a short distance in, if you have two (or more) latrines to dig close together, or you have multiple people willing to share the load, it may well be worth the effort. Can loosen rocks embedded in the hole and can bust through hard packed layers of gravel and clay. Having one of these is great, but not fun to carry. Don't say that you haven't been warned of its weight or awesomeness.