



Volunteer Position Description: Trail Section Adopter

QUALIFICATIONS: A Trail Section Adopter must be able and willing to do basic trail maintenance tasks on an assigned section of trail 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 section of trail 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 North Country Trail Association Maintenance Manual and the Superior Hiking Trail Association's North Shore Realities Manual.
- Specific tasks may include:
 - Removing old (faded, broken) SHT signage and reporting signage issues to SHTA
 - Lopping back brush to create a wide corridor for hiking
 - Inspecting structures such as boardwalk and maintaining these structures as feasible (ex: nailing down a loose board, pounding down a re-bar)
 - If trained in water mitigation techniques, performing basic water management tasks
 - Notifying SHTA of larger projects that require a specialized team
- 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. Volunteers may wish to provide their own gloves.



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In-depth Description of Tasks:

1. Remove old SHT signage and replace with new signage

- SHT logo signs that are broken or very faded should be replaced with fresh signs. Make note of which signs need replacement.
- If existing signage does not make sense to you, please take a photo and follow up with SHTA.

2. Lop back brush to create a wide corridor for hiking

- **Of all tasks Trail Section Adopters do, this is the most time-consuming and the task that most *directly* and *immediately* affects hiker experience.**

One of the biggest challenges the SHT faces is the immense amount of jungle-like growth that occurs on the Trail.

- The goal is to create a trail corridor at least 8 feet tall by 4 feet wide. All brush that infringes upon this corridor should be cut.
- All signs should be visible; please remove all brush in danger of interfering with the ability to read any sign.
- 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, 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.

3. Inspect structures constructed by SHTA

- This includes boardwalks, most bridges, posts, and trailhead signs. This does not include shelters, which are property of MN DNR and/or ski/snowmobile trails.
- When you encounter loose decking (board on a boardwalk) or other loose boards, please maintain it to the best of your ability. An "after" picture is very helpful for us.



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- 4. If trained in water mitigation techniques, perform basic water management tasks.**

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 Section Adopter form online or request a hard copy. Notify SHTA of any large projects that are beyond your training.