

Trail Ambassador Job Description

About the Trail Ambassador Program

As the population of our community has grown, trail use at Bozeman's most popular trails has grown with it. Numerous trails-focused partners have been looking at this growth for years and are taking a proactive step at managing potential conflicts due to increased use on the community trails.

The goals of the Trail Ambassador Program are to:

- provide a high quality trail experience for users
- reduce the level of user conflict
- provide accurate information to the public, and
- have a community volunteer presence at high-use trails around the community

Volunteer Commitment

The time commitment from volunteers will include:

- Working 2-4 times per month for 1-2 hours at a time, from June through October. Including weekends and during the day.
- Participating in an individualized orientation training at the beginning of their term
- Ambassador report submissions every 2 weeks
- Completing an end-of-season evaluation

Qualifications and Skills

Volunteers should be:

- Excited to work outside in all types of conditions.
- Cheerful, diplomatic, outgoing, approachable, and willing to talk with all kinds of people.
- Familiar with the local trail system.
- Willing to leave their dogs at home during their patrols or keep them on a leash at ALL times.

Specific Duties

Volunteers will provide information and education to the public at the most heavily used trails in and around the Gallatin Valley. A few examples include Highland Glen, Burke Park, Bozeman Creek, Hyalite trails, "the M" and Drinking Horse Mountain. The intent of this position is NOT enforcement, only sharing information and reporting back to coordinator.

Duties include:

1. Attend a training session.
2. Complete your outings as scheduled with the Coordinator. We request that volunteers commit to 2-4 outings per month, each consisting of 1-2 hours in length.
3. Carry a small ambassador supply kit, which will be provided to you, including first aid materials, maps, brochures, dog bags, dog leashes, etc.
4. Wear your ambassador "uniform", which will be supplied to you.
5. Cheerfully engage the public. Clean up the trailhead and/or walk trails and talk to the public along the way. You will be trained to distribute information about the following:
 - a. Trail directions and conditions, including rules and trail etiquette such as picking up dog feces, controlling pets, giving right of way on the trail, parking, trash pickup, etc..
 - b. Trail partners, including who the various organizations are, how trails and Hyalite Road are maintained for users, how people can support the trail programs.
 - c. Where to get current information on trail conditions.
 - d. Travel plan and trail uses.
6. Check trailhead conditions, including trash, dog stations, toilets (where appropriate) and report to Coordinator. Replace toilet paper as needed. Post and/or replace materials at trailhead bulletin boards. Pick up trash and/or report to Coordinator.
7. Compile data during patrols on a form provided to you. Data will include number of contacts made, location visited and, vehicle count at trailhead, observations of trail/trailhead condition, and specific complaints or conflicts observed.
8. Provide data and comments to Coordinator at the end of patrols and at the end of the season.
9. Participate in an end-of-season debrief and thank-you event with Coordinator and partners.

If you are interested in committing to be a Trail Ambassador, email Tara Povalish, tara@gvlt.org