

Mass AT Committee
Guidelines for Shelter and Campsite Adopters

A Shelter/Campsite Adopter's duties are to ensure Massachusetts A.T. shelters, campsites and nearby water supplies are in good repair, clean and safe.

Several visits between mid-April and September are recommended. The first visit of the season should be to assess any damage caused over the winter by snow, ice or fallen trees. Check also for "hazard trees"-- those that are dead, leaning, or have dead branches overhanging the shelter and adjacent areas. Report any damage or hazards to the Shelter Coordinator immediately. On subsequent visits--every month or so during the season--you should perform the following tasks:

- Make sure the approach trail is clearly blazed and free of brush, blowdowns, etc.
- Check the roof and shelter structure for any damage, leaks, or rotting timbers.
- Privy Maintenance (dust mask/face covering, disposable gloves, long sleeves):
 - Check to be sure latches are present and functioning and door closes fully.
 - Knock the cone (spread out the poop pile under the seat with the pitchfork hanging on the privy). Check the Privy to see if it's getting full.
 - Stir the privy resting bin as instructed by the Coordinator (note, not all sites have composting privies). Wear eye/face protection, disposable gloves, long sleeves.
 - Refill duff bucket for sites with composting privies using the rake hanging on the privy.
 - Sweep and pack out any trash.
 - Use hand sanitizer when privy work is completed
- Check to see if the water supply is flowing, and the access trail is clear of brush and blowdowns. Confirm water treatment sign is present.
- Check bearbox for proper operation of latch, damage or standing water inside. Remove and carry out any items left in the box. (note, large quantities of bulk food in box may be for work crews--confirm with Coordinator).
- Read the register in the shelter to see if hikers have left any notes regarding repairs or problems. If the register is getting full, inform your Coordinator.
- Sweep out the shelter the broom provided. Wear a dust mask.
- One fire ring in front of the shelter is permitted (except at specific campsites). Destroy and scatter any extra fire rings. If ring has been built up, remove cold ashes and rebuild ring smaller.
- Remove and throw into the woods (the further away, the better) any large (over 2" diameter), green, or long pieces of firewood. Wood should be "dead, down and dinky".
- Collect (look under the shelter too) and carry out any trash, food items, abandoned gear and advertising. Food left in shelters attracts animals.
- Feel free to perform any light maintenance such as re-attaching or replacing any loose boards, touching up blazing, etc. You will be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses for materials or supplies.

Report your visit promptly to:

Shelter Coordinator--Don Fairbanks gdfairbanks@nycap.rr.com 413-443-1148