Winter issue 2017/2018

Letter from the Editors

As winter truly settles in and you enjoy it from the ski slopes, forest trails, or living room armchair, take some time to read the stories of your fellow AMC friends in this edition of your quarterly newsletter. From a young member's lessons learned from her summer spent in Colorado to another member’s journey hiking the Appalachian Trail to exciting pieces in commemoration of the Worcester Chapter’s 100th anniversary, you are sure to be entertained and inspired for your next outdoor adventures.

With the new year, we also welcome a new roster of Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Members and a full calendar of exciting activities and events to celebrate the 100th anniversary. We hope to see you at all the festivities!

Happy 2018!
Alex and Zenya

Alexandra Molnar
Zeny Molnar
Worcester Chapter Communications Chairs
A Look Ahead

by Joe Massery, Worcester Chapter Chair

It’s an honor and a privilege to have been elected as your Chapter Chair for 2018. As I write this, the area is getting its first snow of the season. For many of us, it’s time to get those snowshoes or skis ready, and get outdoors! But I’d like to look beyond today, and ahead to the rest of the coming year. That’s because 2018 will be very special for the Chapter. The first meeting of the AMC Worcester Chapter took place the evening of November 20, 1918, (appropriately enough, the 3rd Wednesday of that month!). So 2018 will be a year to commemorate and celebrate our first century as a Chapter.

We formally launched our centennial celebration at last fall’s Annual Meeting. Given the great turnout at that meeting, I would say we are off to a great start! The largest attendance in recent memory included nearly a dozen of our past Chapter Chairs—a testament to the strength and continuity of the Chapter. Steve Ciras, our 100th Anniversary Chair, reported that dozens of activities and events had been planned for the year, many already posted. All commemorate trips or trails or activities that have played some role in the Chapter’s heritage. Others celebrate and recognize contributions by the Chapter—some financial and others “sweat equity” by Chapter volunteers.

The 100th Anniversary team has researched the events that comprise our history, poring over old notes, photos, and other memorabilia in our archives. They learned a lot about the character and the attitudes of the folks who came before us. They found many examples of the volunteer spirit of our predecessors, their pursuit of adventure, their conservation activities. They discovered some of the things they thought were fun. Much of what the team learned has been incorporated into the events that are part of this year’s 100th Anniversary activities. So check them out. Sign up and participate. If you’re a leader, organize an activity. If you have an idea for something new, let us know.

To repeat some comments I made at the Annual Meeting, think ahead another 100 years to our Chapter’s 200th anniversary. Folks then will be looking back to see how we spent our 100th year. What we did as a Chapter. What kind of Chapter we were. What kind of people. So I’m asking you to get involved—join the celebration, make this a year to remember! What do you say? In a hundred years, when they look back on what we did, what will they see? I say: Let’s give ‘em something to talk about!
It's Only Walking - Thoughts on Hiking the AT
By Charlie Arsenault, Worcester Chapter Programs Chair

I completed my AT journey on September 28th, 2017. Six months + 1 day after I started on March 28th.

“It’s only walking” was my answer to anyone who would ask me about the challenges of hiking the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail. This was my way of letting anyone who asked, know that they too could embark on an AT journey.

During my journey I discovered a few things about the oldest and most famous long-distance hiking trail. Hikers from across the planet are drawn to the AT. The biggest non-US hikers on the trail that I ran into were German. A German documentary on the AT has generated a lot of interest from German adventure seekers.

I also discovered that the reasons for hiking the trail are diverse and complicated. People ask me the simplest question about hiking the trail, “Why?” The question usually comes in two forms.

“Why are you hiking the AT?” – asked with a tone of sincere interest.

Or

“Why are you hiking the AT?” – asked with a tone of disbelief, confusion, or slight hostility.

I still struggle with this question, even after thinking about it every day for the last several months. My answer alters a bit each time I answer it. What remains constant is I did it because I really, really, really wanted to.

I can say with certainty that my interest in the AT did not spring from a German documentary. It started with the popular book, A Walk in the Woods, by Bill Bryson. I read the book over 15 years ago, and at the time did not think that I could, would, or should attempt an AT thru hike. Bill Bryson’s dry humor on outdoor adventure did resonate with me. It made me realize that I wanted to get outdoors more, but hiking the AT was a goal I couldn’t fathom completing.

So, I started getting outdoors more. I hiked on trails near my home, went car camping with the family, and talked with colleagues and friends about my new interest in hiking. One colleague told me about backpacking in the White Mountains of NH with his family. I didn’t think my young kids could handle an overnight backpack. The colleague said, “you know they have these huts in the White Mountains where you can sleep overnight and be fed.” A hike of a couple miles without carrying a full pack of gear was something they could handle.

I made my reservation for a night at Lonesome Lake hut. Being the cheap guy, I noticed a lodging discount for AMC members. The discount paid for a family membership, so sure, sign me up.

We arrived at Lonesome Lake on a sweltering day in July. I remember talking with a very smelly guy down by the lake. He was an AT Thru hiker. I was reminded of the book I had read a couple years earlier.

I asked the smelly guy, “Is the AT near here?”

“Yup, it goes right by this hut.”
I took a walk and found the unique AT white blaze trail markings. I was hiking the AT! Right then I knew I needed to do more than local day hikes and hut trips. But where do I start to do and learn more?

My AMC membership not only gave me a discount. It opened a world of hiking and backpacking that I had previously known very little about.

I opened the back of *Outdoors* magazine to see what trips and adventures were available. I signed up for a trip, then a workshop, then leadership training. I continued to gain skills and confidence and expanded my outdoor adventures.

I still didn’t think I could ever complete an AT thru hike. Then in the fall of 2012, I met an AT Thru hiker on the trail coming down from Mt Moriah. He was at least a decade older than I and was in the final NH and Maine stages of completing the AT. He had a quiet confidence and kind demeanor. In his unassuming way, he let me know that you don’t need to be young or a super fit athlete to hike the AT. You only need to have desire and determination.

He was my inspiration. If he could do it, I could certainly attempt a thru hike.

My desire to hike the AT was burning. I made a quiet goal to retire at 60, put on my boots, and hike the AT. Sixty was still several years away, and I wasn’t sure what kind of shape I’d be in then. I dreamed of leaving my job, putting on the boots, and hitting the trail.

Reality intervened in my AT fantasy. I became part of the biggest technology company merger in history. As with many post-merger events, the new company had a several cost cutting initiatives. (Code word is Synergy). I asked my wife, “If I get laid off, can I hike the AT?”

“Sure!”

A few months later, my layoff dreams came true.

I completed the hardest part of hiking the AT, leaving a respected and safe position to chase a dream. It was like jumping out of an airplane with a parachute, with some concerns that the parachute wouldn’t work.

I had no excuses left. My trail hiking bluff was called. It was time to hit the trail.

Dreaming was great, but doing was much better. Hiking the trail exposed me to new people, places, and experiences I’ll never forget. It was life changing.

What are you waiting for? After all it’s only walking.

If you’d like to see and read more about my epic journey join my Charlie AT Hike Facebook group for my pictures and musings from the trail. FB Group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/Charlie.AT.Hike/

Also check out and vote for my essay entry into the ATC myATCstory contest at: https://myatstory-essay-contest.pgtb.me/dlRPm9. Search for my essay called “Rundown Hiker Hostel” under Charlie A. You’re allowed to vote once per day between January 22nd to February 3rd.
One of my favorite scenes from my favorite state, Maine. My Trail friend, Goliath, is heading into the Rangeley Lakes region.

Shaving is an optional and discouraged activity on the AT.

Those gnarly beards lose their appeal once the summer heat and bugs converge.

I got a lot of grief for carrying a red umbrella 2,189 miles. Good news is that I won a bet that it wouldn’t make it to the top of Katahdin!
20s & 30s (Young Members) 2017 Year in Photos!
This summer, I spent two months living in Denver while working remotely at my job. Ever since visiting the Rockies for the first time two years ago, I had been scheming for a way to come back and explore more of what the state had to offer. In addition to countless photos and wonderful memories of the mountains, I have a few other insights to share. In all, I had a fantastic time and would highly recommend a visit to this Rocky Mountain state!

1. You probably aren’t eating enough
Altitude is a major calorie burner: less oxygen means our bodies have to work a lot harder to function. That means getting by on a normal amount of food won’t do. I learned this one the hard way. After hiking three 14ers in three days (similar to NH’s 4,000 footers except at 14,000 feet), I decided to get a salad in town. Yes, a salad. My calorie deficit caught up to me and I felt like I was going to pass out. Half a loaf of bread, steak tacos, and one ice cream later, I was back to feeling like a normal person. Man, was it hard to stuff that food in but I definitely needed it. Lesson learned: at high elevations, even if you aren’t hungry, eat. Lots.
2. Someone WILL run by you

I thought I was in above average shape until I came to Colorado. And then I was humbled real quick. As I was huffing and laboring my way up many a peak, there would inevitably be someone running right on by me. Every. Single. Hike. Colorado draws the best of the best to live and train in the ultimate playground. Boulder has been called the fittest town in the country. It wasn’t easy, but I had to keep the self-doubt and deprivation at bay when people in jeans were strolling up 14ers like it was just another casual weekend. Lesson learned: there’s nothing to gain by comparing yourself with others. Also: wear that New Englander badge with pride.
3. Get used to starting early
For the summer months in the Rockies, the general guidance for any peak bagging is to be off the summit by noon. Most days, thunderheads start building and can get dangerous by afternoon. If you are determined to get a summit in, the earlier start the better. You have to always be evaluating the current conditions though, and be ready to bail if necessary. I don’t think I slept in past 8am more than twice the entire time I was in Colorado. Lesson learned: when it comes between one extra hour of sleep or having a successful trip, choose the latter. You won’t regret it.
4. **Four-Wheel Drive is a nice investment**
It’s common practice to research trail conditions before a trek, but in Colorado, it’s just as prudent to research the trailhead. Without 4-wheel drive or high clearance, options are much more limited. People often report on conditions of borderline roads, which is extremely helpful. I did experience some questionable roads in my all-wheel drive vehicle, but came out unscathed. There were also areas that I was glad I did not attempt. Lesson learned: Do your research. Know your limits.
Independence Pass—Luckily 2-wheel drive but still exhilarating.

5. Don’t be afraid to do things on your own
This was probably the most important thing I learned on my trip. I knew I wanted to make the most of my limited time, so sometimes I was forced to go off on my own. I ended up enjoying it much more than I expected. From solo trail runs close to the city, to remote 14-mile hikes deep in the mountains, I relished my time making my own decisions and being solely responsible for my well-being. There were a few occasions where fear crept in a bit (most notably on said remote 14 mile hike through endless fields of bear-friendly raspberries), but I managed to push it away, focus on facts, and live in the moment. It’s a skill that applies well to life in general, but is sometimes harder to translate over. Lesson learned: follow your heart, trust your gut. Cliché but true!
After my first major solo hike- a 13er!
Recognizing the Chapter’s Outstanding Members: 2017 Volunteers of the Month and Year

By Joe Massery, Worcester Chapter Chair

One of our Chapter’s most valuable assets—and defining characteristics—is the exceptional volunteering spirit of our members. Nominations for Volunteer of the Month come from Chapter leaders and members—members recognizing members for volunteer contributions above and beyond. Each month the Executive Committee selects one of these nominees via random drawing as the Chapter’s Volunteer of the Month. Before the Annual Meeting, another drawing is held to select the Volunteer of the Year.

We thank all 67 of our 2017 VOM nominees, many nominated multiple times and by multiple people. All are special, and all are winners. But here are our 12 VOMs, as well as our Volunteer of the Year:

**Volunteers of the Month**

Dana Perry
Paul Glazebrook
Debi Garlick
Deny LaForce
Wait Lazar
Denise Guillemette
Emerson Grant
Sue Ostrowski
Jeffrey Mayes
Dave Brainard
Malcolm Beauvais
Janice Melchiorre
Mike Jones
Worcester Chapter
2017 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations and thanks, Mike!!
Third in a series of stories celebrating the Worcester Chapter’s 100th Anniversary.

History Corner: Purgatory
Transcribed by Michele Simoneau, Worcester Chapter Historian

The 100th Anniversary of the Worcester Chapter is on November 20, 2018. Harriet Roe, one of the original Worcester Chapter members, kept a journal of Chapter activities during the years of 1926 – 1928. As part of the Centennial celebration, I will be transcribing entries from the journals for the Chapter newsletter. Below is an account of a trip to Purgatory plus pictures of the hikers. This particular entry was written by Dr. Wire as Harriet did not go on this trip.

Purgatory
December 4, 1926
Will Beaumont

Eight of the unterrified assembled for the seven-thirty Whitinsville motor bus and made the run to that place without accident. As we lined up on disembarking, there were present (see list at end).

After a few necessary delays we got underway about two o’clock. We found it somewhat cooler than when we left Worcester, but had no idea how much cooler it really was. Our last temperature in Worcester was some 30 degrees. The inch of snow which fell on Friday evening gave a wintry look, and also hid all treacherous places. The young folks naturally forged ahead and took the first cut-off to the reservoir and then the familiar road up and down and in and out. The waterfall sounded distinctly cold.

We found a most welcome fire in one of the ledge fireplaces, for Mr. and Mrs. Snow and the children and Mrs. Beaumont had come in by machine from Brahmanville. While the fire was burning, some of the party explored the chasm and reported it was all there, especially the “lemon squeezer.”

Soon it came four o’clock and more windy and more cold, and all realized that we must eat before darkness overtook us. There was a fine lot of coals, and soon the frypans were busy. That coffee done in a graniteware saucepan was so good and the saucepan was so small that a second edition was necessary.

It was five o’clock all too soon and time to douse the fire and start back on an hour’s walk to get the six-thirty motor bus at Whitinsville. By this time cold had grown more intense than was really comfortable, so the party split up, and most of them started ahead. One man was so engaged in studying the stars, he was left behind. The young people paired off and left the stars alone.

Fortunately we found a motor bus well up to the end of town and all climbed on. But that crowd on the back seat houdoood the gas tank, and all had to change in the center. We came up in good shape. From the back seat, chaperoned by Mr. Beaumont (remember he was our leader), came “Oh Promised One” and other
touching ballads, and a “good time was had by all.” Arrived at Union Station at seven-fifteen to find the thermometer 12 degrees above. No wonder the cream froze in the bottle!!!

Will Beaumont, Alice Beaumont, Olive Anson, Stewart Anson, Stanley Banfield, Allan Dickie, Marion Robertson, Mr. Lee Russell, Mrs Lee Russell, Arthur Snow, Mrs. Arthur Snow, Shirley Snow
Ski and hike weekend at the Blue Gentian Lodge, Londonderry Vermont
January 12-15, 2018

Thank you to leaders John Gau, Dave Elliott, Tom Zumwalt, and Jean Sifleet for a fun weekend of hiking, skiing, socializing, and relaxing in beautiful Londonderry, Vermont!

Photo credits: Alexandra Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Thad Demos
Trailblazers
Appalachian Mountain Club’s Worcester chapter gears up for 100th anniversary in 2018
By Dave Greenslit


In late July, Sue Serra, Peter Travisano and Wendy Stoddard spent two nights and three days hiking and camping along an 18½-mile stretch of the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway in New Hampshire. Under the guidance of veteran backpacker Dana Perry, they practiced skills to enable them to spend days at a time safely outdoors, things like tenting, cooking, water treatment and keeping their food away from opportunistic bears and other critters. The hikers also had plenty of time to enjoy the views, especially from Sunapee Ridge, where they could see Crotched Mountain in the distance and Lake Solitude shimmering just below the White Ledges.

The three were taking part in a program for new backpackers sponsored by the Worcester Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Worcester is one of a dozen AMC chapters, and next year it will turn 100 years old.

The Appalachian Mountain Club, itself founded in 1876, promotes the conservation of land and water in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. It believes that the best way to accomplish its mission is to connect people to the outdoors, and its chapters serve as a vital link in that.

Said John Judge, president of the Appalachian Mountain Club. “Worcester’s leadership training programs, skills workshops and conservation stewardship have helped AMC at every corner of our region and in every part of our mission.”

He noted the chapter’s funding and upkeep of the Phoenix Shelter in AMC’s Maine Woods property, maintenance of the Midstate Trail and trails on Mt. Wachusett, and help expanding AMC’s Youth Opportunities Program.

The AMC Worcester Chapter was formed in November 1918, nine months after Frank Mason, then AMC president, suggested to Henry Jewett Greene during a winter climb of Mt. Washington that Worcester look into forming a chapter. At the time, only New York had one, which was founded in 1912. Greene found sufficient interest, and AMC approved the new chapter.

“In the early days, they did mostly hiking, canoeing and snowshoeing,” said Michele Simoneau, the chapter historian. “They also had social activities like the annual oyster stew party, the annual sugaring off party and the annual pancake breakfast.”

Activities have diversified over the years, often picking up on what’s popular. Becky Fullerton, AMC’s archivist, says those activities included whitewater paddling in the 1910s, skiing in the 1930s and backpacking in the 1960s and 1970s.

For the month of August this year, the Worcester Chapter offered more than 50 activities, from hiking on the Midstate Trail, to backpacking sections of the Appalachian Trail, to area bike rides that include stops for ice cream, to paddling on Whitehall Reservoir in Hopkinton and Tully Lake in Royalston, to
Pat Fanjoy of Shrewsbury leads a 10-mile bike ride in Grafton, organized by the Appalachian Mountain Club. [PHOTO/ CHRISTINE HOCHKEPPEL]

Doing trail work on Mt. Washington, to socials for the general membership and for those in their 20s and 30s.

Dave Cole of Boylston first joined the chapter in the early 1990s and again in the early 2000s after a few years off. He has been a paddling leader and now serves as chapter chair. Besides paddling, he enjoys hiking, skiing and family events with AMC.

The chapter has more than 3,000 members and, he notes, has made a big push to get people in their 20s and 30s involved, as well as to get kids outdoors. It has made a financial commitment to the Youth Opportunities Program, in which AMC staffers work with schools to get kids at risk outside by going on local walks and trips to AMC facilities in New Hampshire, where they are provided with gear for outside pursuits.

Cole notes that a teacher at Burncoat High School, Tom Donington, began a program called Burncoat Outdoor Adventure Squad, an outgrowth of YOP that has gotten other teachers involved to take kids outside. AMC Worcester has contributed money from its endowment for the program. The chapter also pays for wilderness first aid training, leadership skills courses and leave-no-trace training for its leaders.

“We have a lot of great people, an awful lot of fun people,” Cole said.

He recalled one trip when the fun came at his expense. That was five or six years ago, when he was one of the leaders on a family paddling trip on the Deerfield River. The plan was for the leaders to intersperse themselves among the family paddlers, with Cole and a friend taking the lead.

“In the very first S-turn rapid, we managed a way to tip over. I remember popping up from under the water, looking over the canoe, which was upside down, and seeing the kids slowly float by, one of them being my seventh-grade daughter, and she mouthed the word, ‘Dumb!’ We were the only ones who went over all day long,” Cole said with a laugh.

Pat Lambert of Westboro has been a chapter member since 2001, when she visited AMC’s Zealand Hut in the White Mountains. She didn’t know much about AMC until she read its brochures about the hut system, trail maintenance and conservation. “I just felt this is a good organization doing all these good works,” she said. “I signed up right then and there at the hut.”

Since then, she’s held chairmanship roles, and has led hikes, bike rides and trips. Lambert also trains and mentors leaders, including young members so they can lead their own trips.

Over the years, she says, the chapter has offered more paddling and bicycling opportunities, including multi-day cycle touring for people who prefer to carry weight on their bikes, instead of on their backs like hikers. She credits Perry with reinvigorating backpacking in the chapter when he served as hiking
And she notes the chapter has more weekday activities now to accommodate retirees and people with different work schedules.

For the past 10 years, the Worcester Chapter has participated in Flags on the 48, a yearly event in which groups place an American flag on each of New Hampshire’s 4,000-foot mountains to honor victims of the September 2001 terrorist attacks. Lambert says some chapter members were on a hike to the Hancocks in the White Mountains when they learned about the effort from a group of Stonehill College students. The chapter planted a flag the following year, and the event has since become tradition.

To celebrate its centennial, the Worcester Chapter plans a series of events in 2018 that will run the gamut — hiking, backpacking, paddling, cycling, skiing, rock climbing — even a maple sugaring party, a pancake breakfast and an oyster meal, just like back in the day.

It also hopes to increase membership and attendance at its annual meeting in November this year.

“People should join because of something that calls to them,” Lambert said. That might start by checking out an activity, then learning more about AMC and its mission. “The mission is why I joined,” she said.

For more information about the Appalachian Mountain Club, visit www.outdoors.org. For more on its Worcester Chapter, visit www.amcworcester.org.
Workshops, Workshops!

Spring is just around the corner! Along with it comes several workshops that the Worcester Chapter is offering. We hope that one of these workshops helps you to get out and experience more trails or roads and adventure in the coming year!

Look for these workshops at [http://www.amcworcester.org/](http://www.amcworcester.org/) and contact the leaders for more information or to register.

**Sat April 7, 2018 – Backpacking Workshop**
Join us for an educational, all-day workshop covering everything you need to know for fun and safe backpacking including personal and group gear, tent site selection and set-up, food and nutrition, trip planning, and Leave No Trace principles. Presentations will be given by experienced backpackers who will have their own gear on display for you to see, compare, and ask questions about. This workshop will be held in Stow, MA.

**Sat April 21, 2018 – Bicycle Basic Routine Maintenance Workshop**
Routine Bicycle Maintenance keeps you riding smoothly and safely and prolongs your bike’s life. Join us for this informative & hands on workshop to help you maintain your bike and repair a flat tire! Experienced AMC bicycle leaders will give a short presentation, demonstrate basic routine bicycle maintenance topics, and provide hands on flat repair instruction. This comprehensive 5-hour workshop will cover Bicycle Parts, Terminology and Tools; Pre-Ride Checklist & Recommended Monthly Maintenance; Hands On Flat Repair using Your Bike’s Wheel; Maintenance for Tires & Wheels, Drive Train & Brakes; and Bicycle Fit. This workshop will be held in Sudbury, MA.

**Sat May 5, 2018 – Cycle Touring Workshop**
Like to backpack? Like to ride your bike? Why not combine the two? This one-day workshop covers the basic information needed to get you on the road cycle touring. We will cover what makes a perfect touring bicycle, but more importantly, how you can tour with YOUR bike. We will cover the different types of touring, route/trip planning, finding places to stay, methods and systems for pannier packing, alternatives to panniers, equipment lists, and cycling safety. The afternoon session will be a hands on demonstration of gear and how to pack it. Fully loaded bicycles and their owners will be available to answer questions, compare pros and cons of various equipment, and offer helpful hints. With this year’s workshop, we will touch on the new sport of ‘Bikepacking’ and demonstrate a fully-equipped bikepacking setup that’s also been used for road touring. This workshop will be held in Sudbury, MA.
Celebrate the *Worcester Chapter’s 100th Anniversary* with these upcoming activities! Be sure to check back on the AMC [activities database](#) for more trip postings.

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Hike Whitehall Reservoir**
Saturday, January 27, 2018
Hiking

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Hike Bigelow Hollow State Park**
Saturday, February 3, 2018
Hiking

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Midstate Hike Westminster to Redemption Rock**
Friday, February 9, 2018
Hiking, Snowshoeing

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: 44th Annual Cardigan President’s Day Family Weekend**
Friday February 16 - Monday February 19, 2018
Hiking, Skiing (cross-country), Sledding, Snowshoeing

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Midstate Hike in Douglas, MA**
Friday, March 9, 2018
Hiking, Snowshoeing

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Hike Mt. Washington via the Nelson Crag Trail**
Saturday, June 16, 2018
Hiking

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Pemi Loop Backpack**
Friday, June 29 – Monday July 2, 2018
Backpacking

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Block Island bike, swim, dine**
Saturday, July 14, 2018
Bicycling

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Canoe Camping Trip, Maine**
Thursday, August 2 – Monday August 6, 2018
Paddling—canoeing

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: Weekend in Maine at Gorman Chairback**
Friday, August 10 – Monday August 13, 2018
Hiking, Bicycling, Paddling, Fly fishing, Birdwatching

**Worcester 100th Anniversary: 100 Mile Midweek Century Ride**
Monday August 13, 2018
Bicycling
Explore the North Cascades with August Camp 2018

In 2018 AMC’s August Camp returns to the breathtaking North Cascades of Washington State. Hikes will be in the North Cascades National Park, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. Choose from a variety of 4-6 hikes every day, or add in backpacking, rafting or kayaking to expand your experience. No matter what you do, you'll be surrounded by amazing vistas!

This full-service tent village for 64 campers each week offers home-cooked meals, daily hikes at all levels, nightly campfires, and wonderful camaraderie. The 2018 campsite is on the banks of the swift-flowing Skagit River, a popular rafting destination, in the shadow of glaciated 10,781-foot Mt. Baker and is just down the road from Cascadian Farms, known for their organic food and wonderful ice cream. The site is reached by the North Cascades Highway, considered the most scenic drive in Washington State. Fly into Seattle-Tacoma International airport, from where the fleet of camp vans provides free transportation to Camp each Saturday. The vans also provide transport to and from daily activities.

Activities are planned and led by AMC-trained and approved volunteer leaders; meals are prepared by our friendly camp staff. All you have to do is show up at the airport Saturday to enjoy the hiking, the scenery, the people, and the fun that is August Camp!

Detailed info and registration materials are available on the August Camp website. Availability is limited, so plan your one or two week adventure now and be part of one of the AMC's oldest traditions. Registration opens January 2, 2018.

**Week 1:** July 14 - July 21  
**Week 2:** July 21 - July 28  
**Week 3:** July 28 - Aug. 4  
**Week 4:** Aug. 4 - Aug. 11
Volunteer with AMC!

Now is the time to apply to volunteer at AMC’s Huts & Lodges for the 2018 season. Help others enjoy the outdoors and learn about the natural world!

Information Volunteers greet guests in a friendly manner, orient them to the facility, and offer advice about nearby hiking trails, outdoor gear, and activity programming. They provide information about conservation and natural history, promote AMC membership, and may lead evening programs or nature walks. Volunteers at lakeside lodges also help guests with boats and waterfront equipment; and volunteers in the huts and at Hermit Lake also assist with retail sales. Information Volunteers serve at AMC’s backcountry huts, at Hermit Lake Shelters, and at these AMC lodges: Medawisla, Mohican, Harriman, Pinkham, Highland, and Cardigan. Essential qualifications include experience hiking nearby trails; an outgoing, friendly personality; knowledge about maps, outdoor gear, and backcountry safety; and the ability to communicate effectively with a diverse group of AMC guests and staff.

Volunteer Naturalists provide outreach in AMC’s backcountry huts, primarily by sharing information about local natural history during evening programs. Naturalists can offer a variety of programs over a few days, or focus on just one or two topics; they can gear their programs toward kids, adults, or both. Sample program topics include pond ecology, White Mountain weather, beaver adaptations, boreal forest walks, history of the Zealand Valley, alpine plant communities, and nature Jeopardy! In addition to evening programs, Volunteer Naturalists offer short talks after breakfast, help guests with hike planning, and may offer afternoon nature walks. Volunteer Naturalists typically arrive late afternoon on Sunday, and depart late morning on Wednesday, although shorter one- or two-night stints are possible. Essential qualifications include experience hiking White Mountain trails; an outgoing, friendly personality; experience leading talks or group activities; and the ability to plan and deliver natural history programs.

For more information, and to request an application, please contact Kyra Salancy, AMC’s Outdoor Program Centers Volunteer Coordinator, at amcvolservices@outdoors.org.
Interested in becoming a leader for the Worcester Chapter? Consider attending leadership training this spring!

WORCESTER\BERKSHIRE CHAPTER LEADER TRAINING
Date(s): Saturday, April 28, 2018 8:00AM - Sunday, April 29, 2018 6:00PM
Status: Open
Activity: Instruction (Skills), Leadership Training
Offered By: Worcester (Mass.)

If you haven’t attended leadership training in many years, please consider joining us for this fun event; there are many new and exciting programs taking place within the AMC, and our leaders are the most important part!

Click here for the official posting.

Hike, raft, bike and more, visiting many stunning waterfalls and scenic vistas on dozens of activities led by trained AMC volunteers. Just arrive and enjoy the activities and camaraderie. Everything’s provided: tents, hearty, delicious meals prepared by our staff, local transportation and a free shuttle from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

July 14 through August 11. Plan to attend for one week or two. Detailed info, pricing and registration will be on our web site by early December. Camp filled by mid-February last year, so don’t miss out! Sign up early for the week(s) you want!

- Week 1: July 14 — July 21
- Week 2: July 21 — July 28
- Week 3: July 28 — Aug. 4
- Week 4: Aug. 4 — Aug. 11

One Week: $925 for members $975 for non-members
Two Weeks: $1,800 for members $1,900 for non-members

Applications are accepted beginning January 2, 2018 in the order in which they are received. Get sign-up documents and more information after December 1 at our web site, augustcamp.org. Questions? Ask Trish Niece at AugCampReg1887@gmail.com

Photos by Jim Borowski, August Camp 2013