

IROQUOIQTA TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Job Description: Trail Maintenance Volunteer Worker

As a member of the Bruce trail Conservancy and the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, the Trail maintenance Volunteer Worker is responsible for:

1. Assisting with fellow volunteer workers to maintain and as necessary develop the Bruce Trail to provide safe and enjoyable footpath for hikers along the Niagara Escarpment
2. Work parties are normally held every Tuesday with smaller work parties on Thursday or other days of the week including Sundays. Volunteers will be notified by email sent no later than 6 PM Sunday night and updates (cancellation) sent no later than 7:30 AM on the morning of the work party. The work party notice will include where to meet, travel directions, approximate duration and work plan plus any special instructions such as - cutter required. Bring loppers, bug spray, rain gear and work boots/rubber boots as necessary. Normally volunteers are not required to bring any tools. When tree cutting involved all workers on the site must wear hard hats.
3. Trail Maintenance volunteers must provide their own transportation to the work site. The club does not arrange car-pools.
4. The Trail Maintenance volunteer should be able to walk 3 km carrying tools and supplies to and from the job site. Work parties activities may include adding side logs, benching, building box culverts and steps, trimming, garbage clean-up and grass-cutting. The club has wheeled and hand-held gas powered grass cutters to be used. Occasionally larger projects such as repairing or building structures such as bridges and boardwalks.
5. The regular Tuesday work parties tend to be a social event where volunteers will discuss everything from the Bruce Trail world affairs, trips planned and taken .You may even find ideas about where to go on your next vacation. We stop for lunch around 11:30 AM and usually work until about 1 PM when some of us will proceed to Tim Horton's . In the winter we remove hazardous trees and/or do an 8-10 km inspection hike.
6. The minimum safety gear for trail workers is **work gloves** and **work boots**. In the winter "**icers**" are often required. When we are cutting trees **hard hats** are required. In addition volunteers need to be aware of their own personal health and safety. Long sleeve shirts and pants will help protect you from poison ivy, deer and other ticks. If you have any allergies bring the proper medication. Note that there are no toilet facilities on the trail. All volunteers should carry a first-aid kit in their backpacks

7. Only Bruce Trail trained and certified workers can operate the chainsaw on the trail. Usually once a year in the Spring there is a training course for a maximum of eight new recruits . If a volunteer has been certified elsewhere he/she can have the certification evaluated by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
8. When cutting trees volunteers are assigned as guards – one on the trail at each end of the cutting area and one on each trail leading into the cutting area. (The length of the tree) Another volunteer stationed near the cutter will act as spotter to warn the cutter of any branches which have shaken loose.
9. When the chainsaw is running No one except the cutter and spotter should be within the cutting area as defined by the two guards, Do not rush in to clear branches until the cutter turns off the saw and gives the OK. All persons involved in tree cutting must wear a hard hat. This includes those in the “Bull Gang” who are required to pull the tree down with ropes.
10. After a volunteer has been out a few times he/she will be given a medical alert tag to put on their backpack which they write their name, address and **emergency contact information** on the front and medications taken on the back. This helps in getting in touch with the right person in case of an accident In the case of any situation where medical assistance is required a BTC Incident report must be completed and filled with the Trail Director without delay.
11. On the work site the volunteer is responsible to the Work Party Lead for that day or if a tree is being cut to the “Cutter” and must act according to their guidance and direction.
12. If departing from the work party early the volunteer must notify the Work Party Lead that he/she is leaving.
13. On the work site, when in doubt ask.
14. The volunteer is responsible for their own care and safety and under no circumstances is required to take risks that may jeopardize their own or their fellow workers safety.