

2017 International Trail Symposium

Trail Talk Abstract - MEGA Events: How to Get 150, or More, Perfect Strangers to Build Some Awesome Trail

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The Ozark trail Association in Missouri has been hosting “Mega Events” since the fall of 2003 with at least two events a year. The first event had 45 volunteers and a recent one had 200 plus volunteers. We have held 35 events with over 3800 total people coming out to build some great trail.

So, what is a Mega Event?

A Mega event is a trail build that is on steroids. Our normal trail builds would be one day events with maybe a little BBQ after words, while a Mega does the trail build we also make it a weekend adventure. We partner with local entries, (outfitters, government agencies), to provide free camping to the attendees for Friday evening through Sunday, provide a trail lunch, an evening BBQ, Raffle, Bonfire, and some Bluegrass Music. On Sunday's are folks are encouraged to take advantage of the area we are camping.

Why put on a Mega Event?

- Help Grow your volunteers
- Take a bit out of your projects
- Attract media attention to you group

What's it take to put on a Mega Event?

- A work ready project
- Camping availability
- Enough Tools
- A project team
 - Event Coordinator – Overall leader
 - Tech Advisor - person who knows the trail work needed
 - Crew manger – Works to get the needed leader and coordinates what they need
 - Crew Leader – folks who know how to build trail and can oversee the volunteer Crews
 - Tool Manger – person responsible for getting the tools and getting them to the site
 - Food manager – arranges for the meals (we usually cater lunch and have a mobile kitchen for doing dinner)
 - Agency Rep – this is someone form the agency the work is being done for

For further information please contact the Ozark Trail Association

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