

Join the Journey™



APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CONSERVANCY



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A Trail to Every Classroom

Music by Yo-Yo Ma, Mark O'Conner, Edgar Meyer - Appalachian Journey

Appalachian Trail Statistics:

2175 Miles 14 States

About 4 Million Users Per Year –

5500+ Volunteers Annually –

Primarily White Males Over 40

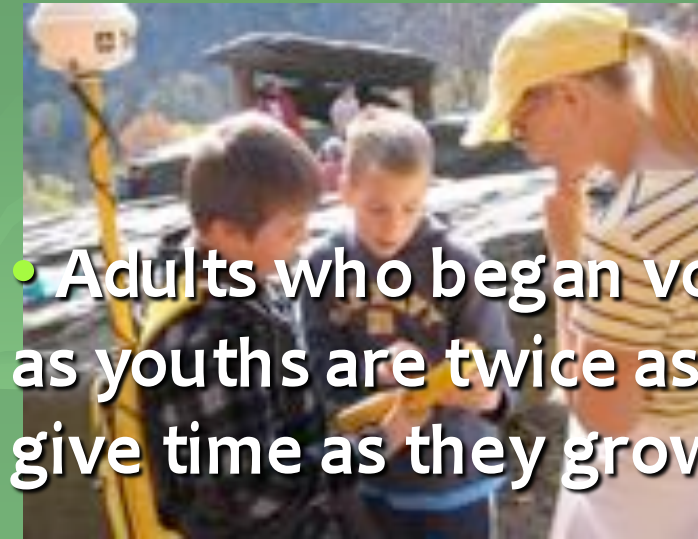
We love these guys, And, we need to build a diverse constituency of outdoor enthusiasts in order to preserve our volunteer tradition.

How?

174 School Districts
& Millions of Kids



Research Shows:



- Volunteering is a learned social behavior.

- Adults who began volunteering as youths are twice as likely to give time as they grow older.



- Students are more likely to volunteer for organizations that provided them quality service-learning opportunities.



- Service-learning is a means of teaching volunteerism.



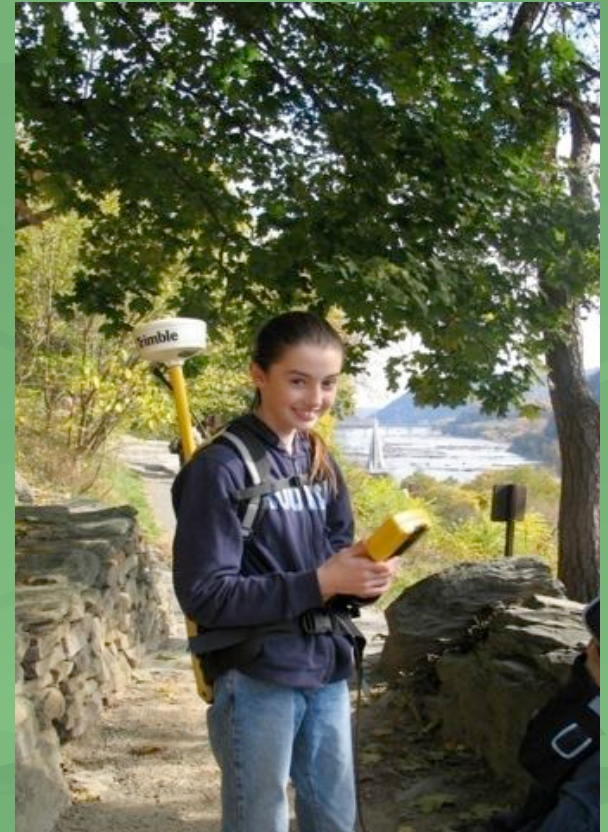
Service-Learning

“Service-learning is an educational method that combines elements of experiential education with community service. It involves youths as resources to their schools and communities, as they apply academic skills to community needs and opportunities, with the support of adult partners.”

National Youth Leadership Council

Service-Learning & Professional Development

- Service-learning is an educational strategy that could help trail managers engage children and build a sense of stewardship for trails within local communities.
- A Trail to Every Classroom workshop series can build capacity in local communities, as well as our Clubs to sustain education partnerships.



A Trail to Every Classroom

- A successful pilot summer institute in 2006
- Moved to Scale in 2007 with the addition of local workshops
- An even larger program in 2008

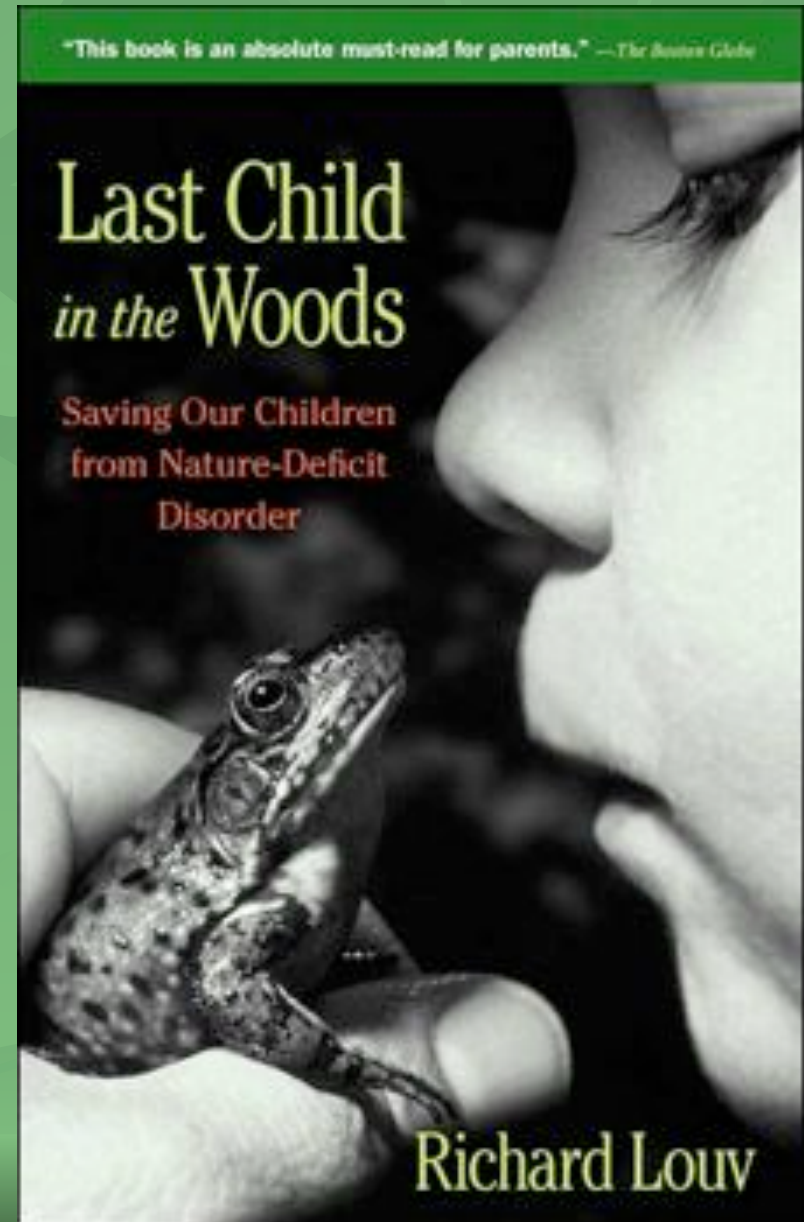
“You’ve changed me, my teaching and my entire school – Thank you!” – 2007 Participant



A Trail to Every Classroom

“The Trail to Every Classroom program engages young people in nature. It brings together Trail managers, teachers, and children, allowing a safe place to engage in physical exercise, explore nature, learn about the Trail as a natural and cultural resource, and collectively get their hands dirty. This is exactly the kind of program we need to see more of as a way to connect children to nature.”

Richard Louv, Author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, 2005.



Place-Based Education & Service-Learning



Place-based Education

Service Learning

Environmental Education

Civic Engagement

Education for Sustainability

Place-Based Learning: Rationale

Our motivation to participate in community affairs - to act for the protection of our communities, the natural environment and the land - comes directly from a strong sense of place and deep concern for the landscapes and people of our home ground.



Place-Based Learning -- Developmentally Appropriate

As the child's world expands, so should the curriculum....



Preschool - K - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5- 6 - 7- 8- 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - beyond

Grade in school

Home - school - neighborhood - community - watershed - state - nation - globe...

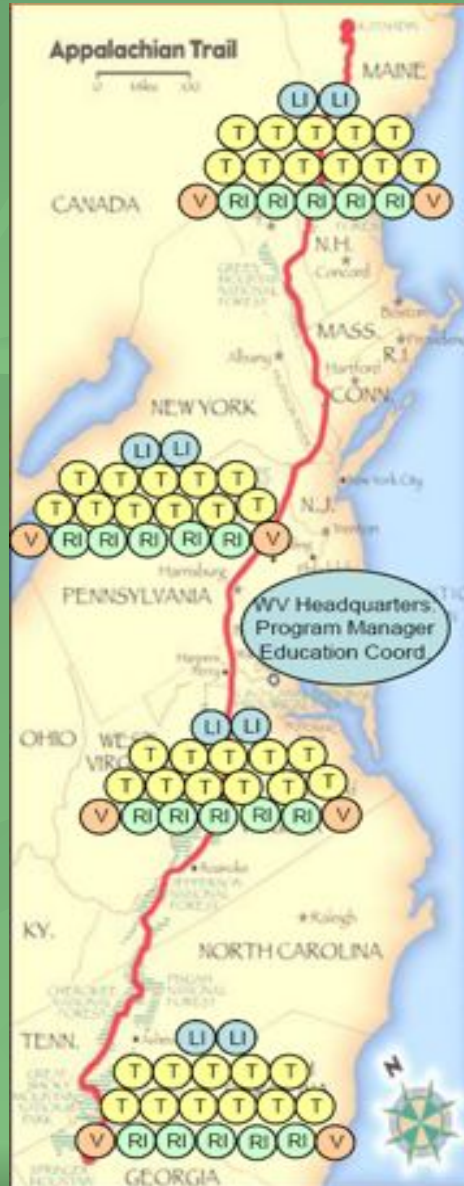
Study area, each grounded in the ones before

The best practices of Place-Based Education include service...

...and the best practices of service-learning begins at home.



A Trail to Every Classroom



- **Recruitment**
Target locales are selected based on partner interest, facilities, community need
- **1st Local Workshop**
Introduce teachers to the Trail locally
- **Summer Institute**
Focus on Place Based Education, Service-Learning, and Curriculum Planning with National Experts
- **2nd Local workshop**
Focus on program sustainability
- **Curriculum Development**
Teachers develop curriculum with a focus on the AT
- **Grants**
Grant opportunity for teachers who are committed to curriculum implementation
- **Follow-up Activities**
Advanced workshops for alumni

A Trail to Every Classroom

2006 Evaluation Results:

- TTEC positively impacts student learning,
- TTEC positively influences educators' knowledge of and involvement with the AT as a community and teaching resource

2007 Evaluation

- Confirmed 2006
- Sustainability is dependent on

2008 evaluation support & 20



TTEC
ers
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The Real Outcomes

Boiling Springs, PA

High school students learn about hike leadership, Leave No Trace and mentor elementary school kids.



The Real Outcomes

Pawling, NY &
Harpers Ferry, WV
Students Adopt Trail
Head Bulletin Boards



Community Ownership
Limits Vandalism

The Real Outcomes

Harpers Ferry, WV

Students Create Trail Brochures



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Georgia to Maine

Brochure Prepared by the Sixth Graders
of Harpers Ferry Middle School



The Appalachian Trail In Harpers Ferry, West Virginia —Hike Through History



The Appalachian Trail through Harpers Ferry may come as a new experience for beginners as well as experienced hikers. It has a gorgeous view of an old church, and trees add shady spots. You might see people on the rocks in the Potomac River. You can also see three states divided by valleys and mountains—West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland. So why don't you come and check out the scenery?

The Real Outcomes

Greenville, ME

Students document hikes through

100 Mile wilderness in ME

with Bill Erwin – First blind thru-hiker & author
of *Blind Courage*.



The Real Outcomes

High school students assist trail crews.

“One kid told me that he had the opportunity to learn more about physics out there [on the trail] than in a whole year in the classroom.”

– 2006 TTEC Participant

