



APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM – *YEARS OF SERVICE*

INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail includes a definition of the Appalachian Trail which states, “The body of the Trail is provided by the land it traverses, and its soul is in the living stewardship of the volunteers and workers of the Appalachian Trail Community.” We are very proud of the volunteer commitment to protect and manage the Trail. This recognition program is offered by the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) and USDA Forest Service as a means to thank A.T. volunteers for their contributions.

It is worth noting that some very dedicated volunteers reject the thought of formal recognition for their efforts. This program is not intended to force anyone to participate. It is an option to assist clubs who do not have the means to develop a recognition program of their own, as well as to provide an optional Trail-wide structure to complement existing programs.

THE PROGRAM

The Years of Service recognition program is based on cumulative years of volunteer service to the Appalachian Trail, and is administered directly by ATPO. Awards for 25 and 50 years of service are presented at each Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conference. Nominations are accepted from Trail Clubs and individuals.

- An announcement requesting nominations for these biennial awards will be sent to each Club president in February prior to each ATC Biennial Conference.
- An announcement requesting nominations from clubs will also be published in the AT Journeys magazine prior to each ATC Biennial Conference.
- One officer of the Club should be responsible for submitting nominations.

Contact Rita Hennessy at 304-535-6170 or email Rita_Hennessy@nps.gov for more information about these awards.