Title: Community Connections to the 100 Miles of the AT in Piscataquis County, Maine

Abstract/Vignette: Students will immerse, experience, research and record data as an AT investigative team. Similar to the success of the ATC-Harpers Ferry Middle School Project, student research will inform and provide content to the county collaboration that is working to enhance trailhead and interpretive signage for the “100 Miles of the Appalachian Trail in Maine”.

Grade level(s): Please check all that apply.

☐ K-2    ☐ 3-5    ☐ 6-8    ☑ 9-12    ☐ College and Lifelong Learning

Discipline: Please check all that apply.

☐ Art and Music    ☑ Health and PE    ☐ Foreign Language

☑ Literature and Language Arts    ☐ Mathematics    ☑ Science

☑ Social Studies and Geography    ☐ History    ☐ Technology

Year Developed: 2006

Period (month, week, year): Year
Curriculum Outline
ATC /Trails to Every Classroom
“Community Connections to the 100 Miles of the AT in Piscataquis County, Maine”

Grade Level: High School Special Ed.


Project Prospectus: See attached pages

Content – Learning About:
- Hiking/Backpacking (Leave No Trace, basic outdoor skills, safety, lightning drills, safe drinking water, etc.)
- Uniqueness of the “100 mile wilderness” section of the AT
- Environmental inventoring/monitoring
- Geology
- Sense of Place – to connect students to the places they live and what’s basically in their backyard (the AT)
- Community Connections
- Becoming a clear and effective communicator

Service Need:
- Enhanced AT information at trailhead to “100 mile wilderness” section in Monson
- AT interpretive information (brochures/signs) in adjacent communities (Monson, Greenville, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft)

Service Idea: Students from Greenville, Maine will participate in place-based and service learning experiences connected to the AT in Piscataquis County. Through classroom and field activities, students will immerse, experience, research and record data as an AT investigative team. Similar to the success of the ATC-Harpers Ferry Middle School Project, student research will inform and provide content to the county collaboration that is working to enhance trailhead and interpretive signage for the “100 Miles of the Appalachian Trail in Maine”.

Preparation:
- Meet with Piscataquis county and MATC-ATC partners
- Review Harpers Ferry Middle School Project
- “Leave No Trace” lesson

Action:
Field Experiences: A series of hikes through portions of the “100 Mile Wilderness”
- 1st Hike (early September) – Immersion on the AT (Focus on basic hiking skills, becoming familiar and comfortable in an outdoor environment, having fun.) Start in Monson?
- Subsequent Hikes – Collect data on geology, plant life, wildlife, water quality, etc. Photograph and map various sections of the trail. Interview hikers along the way.
- Community Connections – Interview people from adjacent communities to learn more about their experiences and perceptions of the AT.
Classroom Experiences:
- Pre-flection about the AT
- Exploration of personal places, community character making links to the AT
- Role of volunteerism on the AT
- Organizing field data, interviews, photographs, maps, etc. into a final product

**Reflection:** Students will meet with community partners and discuss the information they’ve gathered. Students will help produce brochures, signage, or both.