



Maine  
Appalachian  
Trail Club

Managing and maintaining 267 miles  
of the Appalachian Trail in Maine



APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY®

***Attention summer camps, colleges, high schools and scouts:***

**Planning a hiking trip for your group on the Appalachian Trail? Register! Its easy.**

A.T. campsites are free for groups and do not require a permit. To ensure that this remains so it is essential that you register your group, follow A.T. guidelines and practice Leave No Trace principles.

To register, go to Maine Appalachian Trail Club's website [www.matc.org](http://www.matc.org), click on the Group Registration tab on the bottom right. By registering, A.T. Ridgerunners will know in advance of your group's arrival and can help find space for all visitors. If overcrowding is imminent we will work with you to find a less crowded trek.

**Do Not Attempt to Ford the dangerous Kennebec River! Take the free ferry service.**

The Kennebec River is the most formidable un-bridged crossing along the entire Appalachian Trail. The river is 400-feet wide with a swift, powerful current. As a result of daily, unannounced water releases from hydroelectric facilities on the river the water depth and current surges quickly and unpredictably creating hazardous conditions. Contact Maine Guide Service at (207) 858-3627 or [gcaruso@myfairpoint.net](mailto:gcaruso@myfairpoint.net) to schedule your group's ferry crossing. Attached is the Kennebec Ferry waiver which needs to be signed by a parent/guardian for those under 18. It is essential that group leaders secure the signed waivers from parents ahead of time for all members of your group.

## Leave No Trace and backcountry guidelines on the Appalachian Trail in Maine

- **Limit group size to 10 including leaders.** A.T. campsites are designed for small groups. Traveling in a small group safeguards the spirit of wildness and lessens impact to the natural environment.
- **Bring tents and camp at designated tent-sites.** Lean-tos are designed as a common area for all backpackers. They should not be used for sleeping by groups.
- **Use designated toilets (privies) at campsites** which have been located at a safe distance from the water source. Pack out TP from trail side pee stops or use natural materials. Did you know that Maine Appalachian Trail Club is replacing all of its privies? Volunteers are building two new accessible, moldering privies per year on the A.T. in Maine.
- **Protect alpine plants.** The A.T. passes over breathtaking summits in Maine, including Katahdin, Saddleback and Bigelow Mountains, which provide habitat for true, arctic tundra alpine plant species and communities. Hiker impacts from visitors accidentally stepping on rare alpine plants are a big concern. **When on a summit make sure your group members stay on the trail and durable surfaces (rocks).**
- **Build fires only at designated campsites.** Minimize fire impacts in the Maine Woods by using a portable stove. At the following sites fires are illegal per Maine law: Avery Memorial, Horns Pond, Cranberry Stream and Moose Falls in the Bigelow Preserve.

### Need more information? Contact:

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### Need more information on Leave No Trace?

*Visit Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethic's website at [www.Int.org](http://www.Int.org).*