

# MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM™

## Trail Host Volunteer Program



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Welcome to the Mammoth Lakes Trails System Trail Host Volunteer Team! The Mammoth Lakes Trail System offers boundless recreation opportunities on more than 300 miles of trails. From granite crags to trout-stocked lakes, pine forests to alpine meadows, there's something for all seasons, interests and abilities, motorized and non-motorized alike. Managed jointly by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Inyo National Forest, the system includes connections to three wilderness areas, Devils Postpile National Monument, the Pacific Crest Trail and more. Many of these attractions are accessible right from the center of town! As a Trail Host volunteer, you will help people have fun safely.

## THE MLTS TRAIL HOST VOLUNTEER

### Philosophy

The philosophy/motto of the MLTS Trail Host is to “help trail users have fun safely”. Members actively seek to engage with other users to be a resource of information and assistance. The concept for the MLTS Trail Host grew out of the continued and rapid growth in use of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) by multiple user groups as seen in year-over-year data collection. A physical presence on the trails of representatives from the Eastern Sierra outdoor recreation community was determined as the best method to achieve the philosophy.

### Goals and Objectives

As a physical presence on the trails, MLTS Trail Host volunteers' main goal is to help trail users have fun safely. Volunteers are tasked with providing standardized, accurate and current information to trail users and sharing their knowledge of local geography. One of the best opportunities to interact with users is going to be by simply “hanging out” at a designated fixed station. These areas are popular trailheads and staging areas where people are looking at kiosk maps and seeking information. We are hoping to catch users before they hit the trail and answer any questions or assist in clarifying any misinformation they may have. It is also a great opportunity to share local knowledge about the area or specific trails that can be accessed from where you are.

### Code of Conduct

Interactions with users is a critical part of the job. Volunteers will work alongside a MLTS Trail Host Staff. Volunteers and staff will always be friendly and approachable. The overarching goal of this program is to help users have fun by providing a physical presence on the MLTS. Trail Hosts will initiate contact and conversation with trail users when appropriate. If people are looking at maps/kiosks, it is a good indication that they seek information. When travelling on trails, trail hosts should stop and engage with other trail users as appropriate, always demonstrating proper trail user etiquette.

A cool-headed and diplomatic approach is necessary when interactions occur. Always. Volunteers are a “Gracious Host”, not police officers or “Enforcers”. When encountering prohibited activities, Trail Hosts will ensure their safety first. Then, if appropriate, inform the user of their mistake and offer an alternative.

Volunteers will not engage in political discussions. Conversation will be redirected to a positive attribute of the MLTS or the activity engaged in. If an unhappy or frustrated user is encountered, Trail Hosts will listen with empathy to their concerns and offer direction to sources of further information or alternatives.

Trail Host staff are not tour guides and will not offer guided tours to guests. Point to point guidance may be given if necessary. This assistance will be documented in the daily log by the Trail Host.

Volunteers are also prohibited from speaking with the media. Refer all media inquiries to the Trails Manager.

Any photos taking during your shift may be shared to [photo@mltpa.org](mailto:photo@mltpa.org)

Any comments/concerns may be shared to [gretchenhaselbauer@mltpa.org](mailto:gretchenhaselbauer@mltpa.org)

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## **Uniforms**

MLTS Trail Host volunteers will be required to wear a MLTS vest and volunteer name tag while on shift. Vests and name tags will be provided day of shift and returned to staff at the end of shift. Volunteer Trail Host members are also required to wear all of the appropriate safety gear for intended activity (sunglasses, helmet, goggles, gloves, boots, etc.)

## **Information and Programs about the MLTS Community Engagement**

### **MLTS Community Engagement Programs**

The MLTS identified a need to create a community awareness and interest in the programs and offerings it has. The following live under the “MLTS Community Engagement Program”.

### **Trail Host**

The MLTS Trail Hosts are MLTS staff helping trail users have fun safely and enjoy the MLTS.

### **Adopt A Trail**

The MLTS has a program for groups, organizations or individuals wishing to adopt a trail or a segment of a trail. They will perform light maintenance duties and litter pick up. Information on this program can be found at [www.mammothlakesrecreation.org](http://www.mammothlakesrecreation.org).

### **Trail Days**

Dating back to 2009, the MLTS along with partners have spearheaded the efforts to maintain the soft surface trails of Mammoth Lakes and the nearby areas. Hosting several events annually, volunteers are treated to breakfast before receiving work assignments and a safety talk and rewarded with a delicious lunch for their efforts. Please contact the MLTS Trails Manager for more information on this program. All summer 2020 Trail Days have been cancelled.

### **Interpretive Program**

The best first resource for books, brochures, maps, permits and personalized information is the interagency Welcome Center. In the field and on the trail, look for Mammoth Lakes Trail System signs with maps, photographs, and interpretive information specific to each location. Interpretive trails and sites include the Mammoth Consolidated Mine, the Sotcher Lake Nature Trail, Devils Postpile, Minaret Vista, and the Agnew Meadows Wildflower Trail. The interpretive center at the top of the Mammoth Mountain gondola features exhibits on geology, topography and weather.

### **MLTS Website**

Up to date information at [Mammothtrails.org](http://Mammothtrails.org)





# Volunteer Trail Host

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES  
P.O. BOX 1609  
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA  
93546

## ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

### AGREEMENT, WAIVER, and RELEASE

In consideration for being permitted by the Town of Mammoth Lakes ("Town") to participate in the MLTS Trail Host ("Activity"), I hereby release, discharge and agree not to sue the Town of Mammoth Lakes or any Town employee, contractor or official for any injury, death or damage to or loss of personal property arising out of, or in connection with, my participation in the Activity from whatever cause, including the active or passive negligence of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and/or its employees, contractors or officials, or any other participants in the Activity. The parties to this agreement understand that this document is not intended to release any party from any act or omission of "gross negligence," as that term is used in applicable case law and/or statutory provision.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (FULL NAME), fully understand that my participation in the Activity exposes me to the risk of personal injury, death or property damage. I hereby acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the Activity and agree to assume any such risks.

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the Activity, I hereby agree, for myself and my heirs, administrators, executors and assigns, that I shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Town of Mammoth Lakes and its employees, contractors and officials from any and all claims, demands actions or suits arising out of or in connection with my participation in the Activity.

By signing this release, I hereby give my permission to be photographed ("Images") and to license and use the Images in any media for any purpose (except pornographic or defamatory) which may include, among others, advertising, promotion, marketing, and packaging for any product or service associated with the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. I agree that the Images may be combined with other images, text, and graphics, and cropped, altered, or modified. I agree that I have no rights to the Images.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS AND AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT IT IS A FULL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I HEREBY VERIFY THAT I AM THE PARENT AND/OR GUARDIAN OF \_\_\_\_\_,  
A MINOR UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND HEREBY CONSENT ON BEHALF OF SAID MINOR FOR  
THIS AGREEMENT, WAIVER, and RELEASE.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSON TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_