



Know Before You Go!

A guide for new volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on the Florida Trail! The trail is what it is today because of people like you. When you volunteer for the Florida Trail Association, you're not just building trails, you're building community outreach, youth engagement and development, and natural resource awareness for generations to come!

How do I sign up for a project?

If you are an individual interested in volunteering, first submit an online volunteer profile if you have not filled one out before. Next, check out the project schedule and find a project that you would like to attend. Finally, register for the project! Check out the project description to determine who to contact. If you are a part of a group or organization that is interested in volunteering on the trail, email volunteer@floridatrail.org.

What is the cost to join a project?

There is no cost to volunteer on the Florida National Scenic Trail. For each project the FTA provides tools and safety gear (including a hard hat and gloves). Food is provided on a project by project basis, check the registration to see if this applies.

What do I need to bring?

For all projects you will need to bring a day pack, sturdy boots, and appropriate clothing. Long pants are required to do trail work and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Sunscreen and bug spray are also advised. Plenty of water and food (for projects that don't supply it) is a must. For extended projects you will need to provide your own camping gear, this includes a tent, sleeping bag, eating utensils, and personal items.

What kind of environment can I expect?

Florida's environment changes across the state and depends on the time of year. As a general rule, you should be prepared for heat, freezing temperatures, sun, rain or wet terrain, and insects.

Do I need to have prior experience?

Most FTA projects do not require prior trail maintenance experience. You will receive a training session by the trail crew leader before you begin working on a project. Training will include proper techniques and appropriate tool use. If prior experience is required, this will be listed in the project description.

What type of work will I be doing?

Trail crews are a vital component in building, maintaining, and protecting the Florida Trail. Projects are dependent on the needs of the trail in that area. This may include:

- Cutting and removing fallen trees to clear the trail corridor
- Maintaining, removing and building structures such as boardwalks and bridges
- Clearing vegetation that has started growing on to the trail



Do I have to stay for the entire project?

You are welcome to participate in a portion of a project. However, we ask volunteers to attend the first day of the project period. On the first day, crew leaders present safety information and a project overview to the entire group. Check the project registration to see if this option is available. First priority is given to volunteers who can participate in the entire duration of the project.

What are the age requirements?

Youth 17 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or must have their parent or guardian fill out our youth documents. . Please contact the FTA to learn more.

For more information on volunteering on the Trail, visit our website at www.floridatrail.org