

## **Girl Scouts Support the Holliston Trails**

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The Friends of Holliston Trails is a non-profit organization established to support the Holliston Trails committee by raising awareness and fundraising. Their fundraising dollars go towards safety improvements (handrails on bridges, flashing lights on 126, etc) and amenities (benches, waste stations, etc). There are opportunities for Girl Scouts of all ages, some ideas are below.

### **Opportunities for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes**

- General trail clean-ups can be scheduled on fairly short notice and on any day of the year.
- First Night Lantern Walk event takes place on Dec 31 from 5-8 PM - it's a family friendly event where people walk the trail to Phipps tunnel.
  - Troop(s) of any age could "carol" at one or more locations on the trail. This could even be just a 15 minute activity. Last year the Mudville Madrigals "flash mobbed" the tunnel with a song.
  - Troop(s) could staff a fire pit or have a s'mores station at a pit where they help walkers grab a snack along the walk.
  - Goods need to be delivered to various locations for the event, unpacked, etc.
  - Help decorating in advance of the event.
  - A crew is needed to pick up any trash left behind on the the trail the day after our event (Jan 1).
  - There is a Boy Scout troop who usually cooks the hot dogs that are available in Phipps tunnel, but there could be a need to augment their staff and have Girl Scouts take the beverages.
- In early June the committee hosts a 5 mile run on the trail.
  - A troop could host the water station on Cross St for the runners. They would cheer, hand out water, maybe even decorate the stop to make it festive.
  - A crew is needed to pick up trash and remove signage on the the trail after the run.
  - There are a variety of jobs that need to be filled at the start/finish line (same location) - stuffing bags for runners, handing out the bags to registered runners, another water station, etc.

### **Opportunities for Seniors and Ambassadors**

High schoolers looking for a longer term service project, could be mentored through their service. This would be an opportunity for 1-2 girls- not an entire troop. For example: one high schooler worked with the committee for 2 years ago to install waste stations. A committee

member mentored him and coached him on how to work the approvals through the town and suppliers.

Some areas where help is needed are below- or girls could pitch their own idea to the committee.

- Help is needed to photograph the trail over different seasons and at events. Images would be used by the committee in social media and on their website but could also be used to build a budding photographer's portfolio.
- The committee needs to implement a system/process for thank you notes to businesses and individuals who support them, then actually write the notes, track progress, etc.
- Promotion/publicity for the committee could use extra help from a high schooler who is interested in learning more about marketing, public relations, etc.
  - Posting flyers around town for our events
  - Posting/sharing news on Facebook
  - Writing pitches for media contacts
  - Mailings for sponsorship requests (stuffing envelopes, etc.)