

RPC Delegate Volunteer Guidelines

The expectations for both the delegate and alternate are the same because the alternate must be able to substitute for the delegate, herein after referred to as delegate.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the delegate is to the Trail. The decisions of the delegates ultimately affect the Trail as a whole. Secondly, they are specialists in the Mid-Atlantic region. Their decisions are tempered by but not dictated by the club that they represent. This is accomplished by an obligation of the representative to consult with their club or trails committee as appropriate, both bringing RPC ideas to the club and taking club ideas to the RPC.

The committee acts as an advisory board for the region and provides input to set policy and guidance for the region. Thus its members will contribute by advising the regional staff on the setting of policies, setting priorities and dealing with fiscal issues acting within the sideboards of ATC and NPS-ATPO policy, and the budget adopted by the ATC Board of Directors. Since a large part of the financial resources come from NPS through the 5 year planning cycle, it is the delegate's responsibility to coordinate the timely submission of those needs. The members are expected to work with each other and the agency partners.

The delegate is expected to participate fully in the discussions at the RPC meetings, and to represent their member club in deliberations and voting decisions made or brought to the RPC.

Time Commitment

The minimal expectation is that at least one delegate or the alternate be present at each of the two annual meetings. If none can attend it is their responsibility to find a substitute. The delegate should expect to participate fully in the activities of the committee, and can expect to spend about 10 hours per month making progress on the issues before the committee. Some of this time should be spent consulting with their club.

Much of the time commitment involves using web and email connections. You should be able to read email roughly once a week, and respond when appropriate. This will

occasionally require responding to requests for email voting. If you don't have a computer at home, get a free email account and use your public library.

Skills and Interests

The delegate should bring at least several of the following skills and interests to the RPC. It is assumed that all will be familiar with the physical aspects of the Trail in at least their section. While existing skills are good, interest in learning new skills is also important.

- understand physical aspects of the Trail
 - treadway
 - shelters, privys, bridges, etc.
 - monitoring
 - trail assessment
- understand implications of environmental and cultural issues - not necessarily a practitioner
- trail usage issues
- threats to the trail
- land negotiation
- land purchase funding
- government partner relations
- education
- advocacy
 - grassroots
 - behind the scenes
- trail culture - hiker interactions
- legal issues
- communications skills

The committee as a whole needs a balance of these skills and may need outside experts to cover missing area.