

Climbing the Adirondack 46

Who are the Adirondack Forty-Sixers?

The People

Adirondack Forty-Sixers are climbers who have ascended the 46 High Peaks in the Adirondack Mountains. Robert and George Marshall, along with their friend and guide, Herbert Clark, identified 46 mountains in northern New York State with an elevation of 4,000 feet or higher. They were the first to ascend all 46 peaks between the years 1918 and 1925, thus becoming the first Forty-Sixers. Robert Marshall recounted their climbs in *The High Peaks of the Adirondacks*, which was published in 1922. In addition to Marshall’s book, the publication in 1927 of *Peaks and People of the Adirondacks* by Russell M. L. Carson, provided an additional incentive for others to take up the challenge of climbing the 46. It is a tradition that continues today. While subsequent geological surveys have indicated that a few of the 46 High Peaks are less than 4,000 feet, the original listing is still used as the basis for membership.

The Organization

In 1937 a church school class from Grace Methodist Church in Troy, New York, formed the Forty-Sixers of Troy, an informal club whose purpose was to bring together mountain climbing enthusiasts. From this early group came the current organization, the Adirondack Forty-Sixers, created on May 30, 1948. Since its start as a small group of climbers whose common bond was having climbed the 46 High Peaks, the Adirondack Forty-Sixers has developed into a vital organization that has taken an active role in conservation efforts in the High Peaks Region.

The club’s mission is to educate the public on responsible wilderness usage, and to encourage stewardship in the High Peaks Region. It sponsors a number of programs to promote safe hiking and preservation of the wilderness so that hikers will be able to enjoy the region for generations to come.

The Adirondack Forty-Sixers is not part of the Adirondack Mountain Club, although many climbers belong to both organizations.

How do I become an Adirondack Forty-Sixer?

You must climb the 46 mountains listed in this folder, and you must report these climbs to the Historian of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers in order to become an officially recorded Forty-Sixer.

Please write to:

**The Office of the Historian
Adirondack Forty-Sixers
P.O. Box 9046
Schenectady, New York 12309-0046**

As soon as you write to us, we will start a personal climbing file for you. You will be assigned a correspondent who will record your climbs and answer your questions. When you send in your climbing reports, please include the names of the mountains you climbed, the dates you climbed them, and the names of any companions with you on each hike. Tell us what you saw, how you felt, and what the climb meant to you. Your experiences in the mountains are unique and interesting and we encourage you to share them with us. Each hiker should submit his or her own reports. This includes children. You are not required to report after every climb, but you should report, at the very least, once a year.

Twenty of the 46 mountains are untrailed. That is, they do not have marked, maintained trails. Until 2001 these summits were marked with a canister. However, the recently implemented Adirondack State Park Land Master Plan identified these structures as non-conforming in wilderness areas. Therefore, the canisters have been removed and replaced on most summits

with signs. If you have difficulty finding the summit sign, don’t destroy the fragile environment looking for it. Your word is sufficient that you have reached the summit.

When you have ascended 30 of the 46 peaks you will be an Aspiring Forty-Sixer. Your name will be placed on the Forty-Sixer mailing list. When you have reported climbing your 40th mountain you will receive a *Questionnaire* and *Mountain List*. These are to be filled out and returned after climbing your 46th peak. You will then be officially recorded as an Adirondack Forty-Sixer and advised of membership. The following February you will be assigned a climbing number and at the spring meeting you will be presented with a *Certificate of Accomplishment*.

In summary, you don’t join the Forty-Sixers, you become one by climbing the 46 High Peaks. If you want to be recognized for your accomplishment you need to report your climbs to the Office of the Historian. While we *do* record your climbing accomplishment, we *do not* promote, collect, or publicize records involving time, number of rounds climbed, ages, or any other arbitrarily set goal. We encourage you to climb for your own personal satisfaction.

What are the membership privileges?

Only a climber who has recorded ascents of all 46 High Peaks is entitled to wear the “ADK 46-R” patch or emblem. Dues are minimal. Only an active member, one who has paid dues for the current year, may vote. Active members may buy patches, pins, decals, and other Forty-Sixer merchandise.

Members also receive the club’s semi-annual publication, *Adirondack Peeks*, and announcements of the semi-annual gatherings. The spring meeting is usually held Memorial Day weekend. The fall meeting is generally held in mid-October. Both are usually held in the High Peaks area. These weekends feature environmental projects, including trail maintenance and litter pick-up, a business meeting, a dinner, and sometimes a special evening program. Everyone is welcome.

How can I help the Forty-Sixers?

If you believe in “giving something back” to the mountains that have given you so much pleasure, you are welcome to join the Forty-Sixers in their volunteer trail programs. Several day-long and weekend projects are planned each summer in cooperation with the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Projects range from trail clearing and general maintenance to leanto restoration. You don’t have to be experienced or a Forty-Sixer to participate. For additional information please write to: **Trailmaster, Adirondack Forty-Sixers, P.O. Box 9046, Schenectady, New York 12309-0046.**

Leave No Trace

The Forty-Sixers believe in the principles of “leave no trace.”

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Properly dispose of what you can’t pack out.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize the use and impact of fires.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

Registers

The DEC maintains registers at main trailheads and various locations. Your name in the register means you are on the trail. Be sure to sign in and stick to your destination. Register “out” when you leave. This is important for your personal safety. Certain areas of the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness Area require a Visitor Use Permit. These permits are available at the trail-head.

Camping

Forest Preserve Camping Regulations:

- Groups planning to camp in the High Peaks Wilderness Area are limited to no more than eight people per group.
- Camping is allowed at any location below 3,500 feet in elevation, provided your site is at least 150 feet away from any road, trail, or water except where prohibited by a DEC sign. You may camp within 150 feet of a road, trail, or water only at a designated site. These sites are marked by a yellow DEC disc.
- At elevations between 3,500 and 4,000 feet camping is allowed at designated sites only. These sites are marked by a yellow DEC disc.
- Camping is now prohibited above 4,000 feet in elevation at any time of the year.
- Many of the access points in the High Peaks Region are located on private land. Camping is not allowed anywhere on these lands. The user is responsible for confirming that they are on Forest Preserve Land before they locate a campsite. Continued public access over these private lands is assured if we comply with the landowners’ wishes.
- Bears are a significant problem in heavily used areas. Campers should take proper precautions to keep their food from bears. Consider using a commercial “bear canister” while camping at popular areas.
- Adirondack leantos (open camps) are located along the trails and are available on a first-come-first-serve basis and up to capacity, which varies from six to ten persons. Be ready to share your leanto with others. The intelligent camper does not count on finding a leanto empty or even available, but takes his or her own shelter. Leantos have been removed in many areas. Check before your trip to make sure that the leanto you are expecting to find is still there.

Group Size Limits and Other Regulations

- Day hiking groups are limited to no more than 15 people in the High Peaks Wilderness Area.
- Camping groups may not be larger than eight people.
- In portions of the High Peaks Region dogs must be leashed.
- Glass containers are prohibited in the High Peaks Wilderness Area.
- The DEC webpage, www.dec.state.ny.us will have up-to-date regulations for the area.

How about fires?

Open fires are not permitted in the Eastern Zone of the High Peaks Wilderness Area. In other areas they are not recommended, but they are allowed without a permit in most of the Forest Preserve. The Forty-Sixers recommend the use of lightweight stoves and discourage the use of open fires. Stoves are more dependable in bad weather and less damaging to the environment.

...And drinking water?

Never put anything in the water or near it that you would not want to drink yourself. Never assume that other people are as careful. Forest Rangers recommend treating water taken from any source in the backcountry by one of the following methods: use an appropriate filter; treat the water chemically; or give it a timed rolling boil of two minutes.

...And trash?

Trash is one of the biggest visible destroyers of wilderness quality. Be guided by the ethic, “If you carry it in, carry it out!” The burial of other than human waste is not permitted. Do not burn trash. Your trash is your responsibility. If less considerate people have left trash or littered, please do more than your share and pack out their trash, too.

Where can I get help for search and rescue or law enforcement?

You may meet Forest Rangers and other DEC personnel on the trails. They will be glad to help you. Don’t overlook the many hikers on the trail who are willing to offer information and help.

If you need emergency help the **Park-Wide Emergency Dispatch telephone number is (518) 891-0235.**

The **Division of Lands and Forests of the DEC at Raybrook, New York 12977**, manages State land in the Adirondack Park. Write or phone them at **(518) 897-1200**. If they do not have the information you want, they can direct you to someone who does.

DEC is updating management plans for many areas in the Forest Preserve. For current regulations be sure to check the DEC webpage www.dec.state.ny.us or contact DEC by phone (518) 897-1200 before you begin your trip.

The 46 in Winter

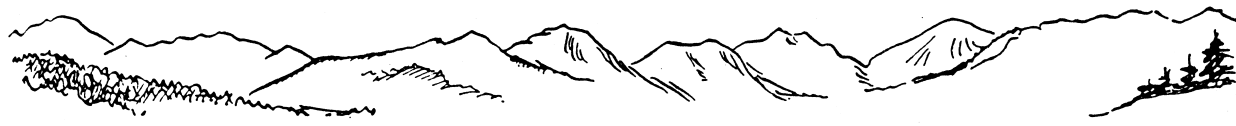
Hikers who have climbed the 46 peaks in winter (December 21-March 21) and recorded their ascents with the Office of the Historian will receive winter recognition and be entitled to wear the Winter 46-R rocker patch. Only those who are in excellent physical condition, properly equipped and skilled in winter techniques should attempt this, as winter climbing can be exhausting and demanding. Parents should be particularly careful in assessing the abilities of their children for winter hiking. When winter hiking, it helps to be familiar with the peaks, the weather, the hazards, and to climb with a group of experienced winter hikers. A good way to learn about the skills and equipment needed for a safe winter outing is to attend the ADK/AMC Winter Mountaineering School. Names of experienced winter hikers may be obtained from various Adirondack Mountain Club chapters or from the Forty-Sixers (Office of the Historian-Attn: Winter Correspondent). After each climb or at least at the end of each winter season, record your climbing experiences with the Forty-Sixers.

In Conclusion

The Adirondack High Peaks are beautiful and unique. The vegetation is as fragile as the rock is durable. Treat the area with care and respect so that future generations can enjoy it as you do. On all summits travel on worn paths and bare rock so as not to trample vegetation. Whether or not you aspire to climb all of the 46 High Peaks, we invite you to participate in one of the Forty-Sixers’ stewardship programs to “give something back” to the mountains. Help us preserve this wonderful and special place.

*“We Forty-Sixers can take pride in our dual role of creative conservationists, of both helping new people **experience** the high summits and of helping them learn to **preserve** the high country through volunteer work and via responsible woodsman-ship.”* — E.H. Ketchledge #507

“The hikers you meet are friendly people. Speak to them. The Forty-Sixers are a friendly group, on a first name basis. Many lifelong friendships are made here. We hope that you will join the Forty-Sixers in a growing stewardship for the High Peaks. May you have many enjoyable, safe and responsible trips in these mountains. Good climbing!” — Forty-Sixer Historian Grace Hudowalski #9



MOUNTAIN	ELEVATION	DATE	Climbers with You	Remarks
Algonquin	5114 feet			
Allen *	4340 feet			
Armstrong	4400 feet			
Basin	4827 feet			
Big Slide	4240 feet			
Blakes Peak	3960 feet			
Cascade	4098 feet			
Cliff *	3960 feet			
Colden	4714 feet			
Colvin	4057 feet			
Couchsachraga *	3820 feet			
Dial	4040 feet			
Dix	4857 feet			
Donaldson *	4140 feet			
East Dix *	4012 feet			
Emmons *	4040 feet			
Esther *	4240 feet			
Giant of the Valley	4627 feet			
Gothics	4736 feet			
Gray Peak *	4840 feet			
Haystack	4960 feet			
Hough *	4400 feet			
Iroquois	4840 feet			
Lower Wolf Jaw	4175 feet			
Macomb *	4405 feet			
MacNaughton **	4000 feet			
Marcy	5344 feet			
Marshall *	4360 feet			
Nippletop-	4620 feet			
Nye *	3895 feet			
Panther *	4442 feet			
Phelps	4161 feet			
Porter	4059 feet			
Redfield *	4606 feet			
Rocky Peak Ridge	4420 feet			
Saddleback	4515 feet			
Santanoni *	4607 feet			
Sawteeth	4100 feet			
Seward *	4361 feet			
Seymour *	4120 feet			
Skylight	4926 feet			
South Dix *	4060 feet			
Street *	4166 feet			
Tabletop *	4427 feet			
Upper Wolf Jaw	4185 feet			
Whiteface	4867 feet			
Wright	4580 feet			

Elevations listed are from the most recent USGS survey. While four of the peaks are under the original 4000-or-more-mark, you must climb them to become an Adirondack Forty-Sixer. (**MacNaughton gained 46er stature in this survey. Although most 46ers climb it, it is not required.)

*Mountains on which registers have been placed.

Books, Maps, Publications and Webpages

Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc.

P.O. Box 180

Cadyville, NY 12918

OF THE SUMMITS, OF THE FORESTS. Hard cover illustrated volume about the Forty-Sixers, their activities, their interests, including membership listing through 1995. \$19.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. (NYS residents add applicable sales tax.)

ADIRONDACK PEEKS. Semi-annual publication; news, climbs, activities and projects of the Forty-Sixers. Please write for subscription rates or send \$3.50 for a sample copy.

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP. Hiking and camping skills shared with those in leadership capacity, at Heart Lake in early May.

Webpage: www.adk46r.org

The State Department of Environmental Conservation

50 Wolf Road

Albany, NY 12233

The following are available free:

NORTHVILLE-PLACID TRAIL

PUBLIC USE OF NYS LANDS

TRAILS IN THE HIGH PEAKS (with map)

NORDIC SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING IN NY FOREST PRESERVE

Webpage: www.dec.state.ny.us

USGS Information Services

Box 25286

Denver, CO 80225

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Webpages: www.doi.gov

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/mac/findmaps.html>

Phone: 1-800-HELPMAP

Also at book and sporting goods stores in the Adirondacks.

Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc. (ADK)

814 Goggins Road

Lake George, NY 12845-4117

Please write for prices and current listing of publications. The following are of special interest.

GUIDE TO THE ADIRONDACK TRAILS: HIGH PEAKS REGION.

Excellent guide with map of the High Peaks.

GUIDE TO THE NORTHVILLE PLACID TRAIL. With page maps for each section plus topo map.

WINTERWISE. A "how-to" guide covering every aspect of winter hiking and camping, by John M. Dunn, M.D.

Webpage: www.adk.org

Adirondack Regional Tourism Council

P.O. Box 2149

Plattsburgh, NY 12901-2149

ADIRONDACK GREAT WALKS AND DAY HIKES

Webpage: www.adirondacks.org

Leave No Trace Information and Materials

Phone: 1-800-332-4100

Webpage: www.lnt.org

Climbing

the

Adirondack 46



The Adirondack Forty-Sixers

P.O. Box 9046

Schenectady, NY 12309-0046