

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §20-5-23

§20-5-23. Establishment of Adopt-A-Trail program for paths and trails.

(a) The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources shall establish an Adopt-A-Trail program that will allow volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing trails on state- owned land.

(b) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, volunteer groups in the Adopt-A-Trail program may adopt any available trail or trail segment and may choose any one or more of the following activities:

- (1) Spring cleanups;
- (2) Litter collection;
- (3) Accessibility projects;
- (4) Special events;
- (5) Trail maintenance, enhancement, or realignment;
- (6) Public information and assistance; or
- (7) Training.

(c) Volunteer groups that want to participate in the Adopt-A-Trail program shall apply to the division on an application provided by the division. Applications shall be reviewed and approved or denied at the division's discretion. Groups may not perform any activity on a trail or trail segment until approved by the division with an Adopt-A-Trail agreement executed by all parties to the agreement. The division may provide for more than one volunteer group to adopt an eligible trail or trail segment.

(d) Adopt-A-Trail agreements shall include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

- (1) Participating in the program for a term of at least two years;
- (2) Assisting with trail or path maintenance when applicable; and
- (3) Complying with all reasonable requirements of the division.

(e) Volunteer groups shall consist of people who are 18 years or older. Participants 17 years of age or younger may participate, but must be accompanied by an adult who is 18 years of age or older with a close relationship or connection to any participant 17 years of age or younger. As with the Adopt-A-Highway and the Adopt-A-Stream Programs in this state,

groups participating in the Adopt-A-Trail Program may include, but not be limited to, communities, families, individuals, members of 4-H or Future Farmers of America, scouting organizations, any faith-based group, youth group, schools, college organizations, businesses, civic organizations, and government agencies.

(f) Activities performed by volunteer groups may not involve work that:

- (1) Reduce hours or compensation of department or division employees;
- (2) Could be performed by a laid-off department or division employee; or
- (3) Are inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement.

(g) If the division operates other programs in the vicinity of the trail that allows volunteers to participate in similar programs, the division shall coordinate these programs to provide for efficient and effective volunteer programs in the area.

(h) Adopted trails may be identified by a sign at a location along the adopted section bearing the Adopt-A-Trail logo and the name of the volunteer group after the group completes 50 hours of service.

(i) The division shall coordinate with the closest solid waste authority so that any tires, appliances, televisions, or trash may be properly disposed of with proper documentation.

(j) Collected litter will be placed at designated locations approved by the division. The division may coordinate with volunteers, local authorities, and state agencies for removal and disposal of collected litter. Garbage bags, safety training, and gloves are to be furnished by the program.

(k) The division may propose rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to carry out and implement the Adopt-A-Trail program.