

Dear Club Officer,

You are invited to attend and participate in the next New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Delegate's meeting on June 23, 2005 at Ross Dock in Fort Lee, NJ. This meeting will kick off the annual Plan and Budget process for our organization and we would like to have your input as we plan for next year. As a federation of 97 hiking and outdoor organizations, we are one of the largest groups representing the interests of hikers in the region. By inviting representatives from our member club's to participate in our planning process, to better serve the hiking community. Not only are we inviting clubs' presidents and club delegates, we also invite your committee chairs to attend too.

In February, representatives from our member clubs and the Trail Conference met to open the lines of communication and increase member club participation in activities that affect the hiking community. An "Idea Incubator" session was moderated with more than 40 representatives' submitting issues that concerned their organizations. From that list, 16 topics surfaced to the top and became the focus for the day's brainstorming sessions. These topics included illegal ORV use, environmental land stewardship, fighting development in the Gunks and Catskills, and New York State land use liability issues.

Each session was attended by club representatives who had an interest or expertise in the topic; discussions included developing lists of action items and steps that can be taken to address the issue. Summaries of these discussions will be available at the June Delegates meeting. Session attendees who want to take the next step will be invited to bring their ideas to the appropriate Trail Conference committee for consideration.

Every summer, Trail Conference volunteers and staff begin a three-month process of developing the objectives, tasks, and deliverables for the plan and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Hundreds of great projects and programs are suggested, but with limited resources, only projects with the support of volunteers can be considered.

You are also invited to submit proposals that you are willing to take action on to the corresponding Trail Conference Committee at the June Delegate's meeting. We have enclosed an easy to use form to submit items for consideration.

Representatives from each Trail Conference committee will be in attendance and will present and provide an overview of the 2005 Plan & Budget and accept recommendations and suggestions for 2006. In order for your ideas to take root, they need your support. By working together and combing resources, we can accomplish much more for our hiking community.

Over please

The meeting and program start at 7:00 pm. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6:00 pm, for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives. Please RSVP your attendance to office@nynjtc.org by June 16, 2005.

Directions: Please see the attached sheet.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Goodell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "G".

Edward Goodell
Executive Director

Encl