



# Stewardship Summit @ Saddleback

## About the Trip

***This trip is best suited for individuals 16+ and in good physical condition. Please note, individuals under 18 years of age must be chaperoned.***

We will ascend to the summit via Grey Ghost and Tri-Color, which begins at Saddleback Ski Area. This is the most direct route to the top, making it possible to complete the hike in one afternoon. The trail is approximately 1.7 miles one way, with an elevation gain of 1,750 ft. The slope is exceptionally steep, making both the ascent and descent physically demanding. The hike will take roughly 2.5 hours, with an additional 30-minute break for lunch and 1 hour set aside for a discussion on alpine communities and the unique characteristics of these living museums. The format of this discussion is detailed in the *Alpine Worlds of Maine* section.

<https://www.saddlebackmaine.com/activity/hiking/> has additional information that may be helpful.

## Trailhead & Parking

There is ample parking available at the Saddleback ski area. The address and GPS coordinates are provided below. I have marked both the parking area and the trailhead on the map to the right. On the day of your trip, I will meet you at the trailhead at the time we discussed.

Saddleback Ski Area & Bike Park

976 Saddleback Mountain Rd.

Rangeley, ME 04970

GPS Coordinates: 44.94623, -70.52708



## Be prepared

Participants should come prepared with a bag lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Proper footwear is essential. Conditions at higher altitudes can be unpredictable, so dressing in layers and bringing rain gear is recommended. There are no restrooms on this hike - Leave No Trace principles should be followed. The lodge may be open on certain days to use restrooms before or after the hike, you can call the lodge ahead for this information. Alpine zones are extremely sensitive ecosystems, and it is crucial to practice Leave No Trace carefully. If you have any questions or concerns about what to bring or how to prepare, please reach out to your trip leader in advance (see the reverse side of this document for contact information). The Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) will also require all participants to sign a waiver before participating. This can be done electronically in advance of your trip date.

## **Stewardship and Alpine Education**

Stewardship and education play crucial roles in preserving our environment and recreational spaces. This trip aims to offer participants a unique opportunity to engage in either a stewardship activity or an educational experience. You can choose between an educational session that delves into the Alpine Worlds of Maine or a hands-on stewardship project supporting the Summit with a Stone program. The Stone program will also feature an alpine discussion at the summit. Further details about both programs are provided in the sections below.

### ***Alpine Worlds of Maine***

A one-hour educational journey into the alpine worlds of Maine; remarkable ecosystems that cover less than 1% of the state's landscape. These "living museums" are home to unique plant communities, fascinating lichens and bryophytes, and resilient animals, all of which are adapted to survive in harsh, high-altitude conditions. Learn about the extraordinary nature of these ecosystems and what we can do to protect them for future generations.

### ***Summit with a Stone***

Saddleback has recently seen an increase in recreational traffic, prompting the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to begin a scree wall construction project at the summit. This wall will help protect local plants while allowing visitors to enjoy the summit views. To minimize disruption to the site, stones must be moved from lower elevations along the trail. As part of this stewardship effort, we ask participants to carry an authorized stone with them to the summit. Please note that not all rocks are suitable for this project—only stones from our designated Summit with a Stone pile should be moved. These stones have been carefully selected from the region to match the summit's unique geology.

## **Schedule your Visit to the Saddleback Summit with MATC!**

If you or your group are interested in booking this trip, please contact Maine Appalachian Trail Club's Outreach Steward, Amanda Reimer, at [americorpoutreach@matc.org](mailto:americorpoutreach@matc.org). This trip will be scheduled on an individual basis between June 15<sup>th</sup> – approximately Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

## **Trip Cost**

There is no cost to participate in this trip. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the trailhead, gear, water, and bringing a bagged lunch. Please reach out to your trip leader if you need assistance with gear or overnight accommodations/campsite recommendations.

## **Your Trip Leader**

This trip will be led by Amanda Reimer, Outreach Steward. Amanda is working with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) through AmeriCorps on a one-year contract, developing programs that encourage outdoor activities through stewardship initiatives. With a background in wildlife management, and a passion for getting people outdoors, Amanda is excited to lead you on this adventure! **Contact:** [americorpoutreach@matc.org](mailto:americorpoutreach@matc.org).

