

The following are fictitious examples of nominations to various Trail Conference Awards. They are meant to show what is required to be nominated and how to present the information for the nomination.

Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award

Over the last three years, Russell Sprout has volunteered for the Trail Conference as a project manager for two maps, a maintainer, and an office volunteer. He led the Conference's letter writing campaign to stop development in a sensitive area adjacent to Slippery Rock Park. He went the extra mile to make sure letters reached the legislators and then followed up with phone calls to their aides.

Ken Lloyd Club Award

For the last five years, Helena Handbasket has been conservation chair for the Trail Walkers Club and makes sure members know about issues that affect trails. Her enthusiasm about informing people cannot be underestimated. Helena's e-mails have resulted in an increase in turnouts for public hearings on open space protection in five towns in New Jersey. In the last 3 years, she had a column on conservation issues in the monthly club newsletter. She goes about her task quietly and well informed. It was through her efforts that hiking trails crossing private land in Small Town were reopened to the public and that High Top is now a park.

Hoeflerlein Award

1. For the last 10 years, Justin Thyme has been a Trail Conference supervisor for the 30 miles of trails at Slippery Rock State Park. During that time, he has worked with his ten maintainers to improve conditions on the trails. He has fielded a trail crew to create the Crossover Trail and advised two Eagle Scout projects. More recently he has presented trail maintenance workshops. His team approach and support for his maintainers set him apart.

2. As a seven-year Trail Conference volunteer, Dot Matrix is dedicated to trails. She was part of the construction crew for the Overhill Path and became the maintainer for a portion of it. Building on her crew experience, she has lead crews to build trails she designed. The relocation on Sunny Side Trail with outstanding views of the Hudson River took into account the rattlesnake denning area. Her redesign of the Wilson Loop linked ends of old carriage roads that were cut off by private property. Each of those projects took place over two years. In both instances, she was the crew chief - organizing work trips and training volunteers. It is not just the designing and building of trails that set Dot apart, she is volunteer who seeks to bring others on board.

Trail Partner Award

In the eight years Hugh Betcha has been Park Manager in Slippery Rock State Park, he has made an immense impact. Within a month of starting, Hugh went on a hike to learn about the area and the Trail Conference. Taking him on subsequent hikes provided opportunities for me to learn how the park is managed. Hugh's enthusiasm for his job is contagious and we have a better understanding of the challenges he faces. Hugh views the Trail Conference volunteers as a part of his park management team and yet is aware of the organization's stand on issues. Although I am more likely to phone him, he calls me when questions or problems arise. In January, when I was looking at places to hold a Pancake Breakfast, I asked him about the feasibility of using the park. Not only did he suggest a great location, but he provided the park's tents at no charge. In the seven years that he has been park manager, Hugh has been instrumental in changing how the Trail Conference is perceived in the region.

Next Generation

1. For the last five years, Cara Beaner, who is 16, has been helping her father, a trail supervisor. At first, she would go with him checking the trails. Now she helps on work crews, including

building bridges. She has become quite skilled at setting up the grip hoist and adjusting the rigging. Her knowledge in its operation has made her part of the trail crew. At the trail maintenance workshop held last year, she was in charge of refreshments and talking about tool safety. For work trips, she manages the tools and sign-in. Cara is a youthful presence on the trails in Shore Park.

2. Boy Scout Troop 123 in Hilltop County is proud of its involvement with trails at Overhill County Park. Over the course of the last five years, the boys built and now maintain the Brookside Trail. In three of the last four years, Eagle Scout candidates have built two bridges and interpretive signs, thus improving the trails. One bridge was built during a significant cold spell, but that did not deter the boys. A fourth Eagle Scout project, slated for this winter will build 50 feet of puncheon across a wet area. The quality of their service sets a standard for other youth groups in the area.