2025 Hiking Challenge!

The 2025 Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park hiking challenge is here! This challenge is hosted by the park and the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain.

For the past three years, Kennesaw Mountain NBP has hosted a hiking challenge, encouraging visitors to explore the park's trails.

This year's theme is "Surveying the Park," which focuses on the geographic features and boundaries of Kennesaw Mountain. This year's challenge involves answering questions and taking photos throughout the park.

The challenge runs from September 1 to December 1.

Clue sheets will be available in the Visitor Center.

Kennesaw Mountain Hiking Challenge - 2025

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The challenge runs from September 1 to December 1. Clue sheets will be available in the Visitor Center.



Hosted by the Kennesaw Mountain NBP and the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

Kennesaw Mountain NBP: https://www.nps.gov/kemo Friends of Kennesaw Mountain: https://friendsofkmnbp.org/



"Out There" Was A Fantastic Success!

Ticket sales were 487 - a record for a single presentation to date!

The presentation was rated as a 4.9 out of a possible 5 for 31 surveys!

The Friends netted over \$11,000, which is going toward the Bridge project (page 12) - Thanks!

Thanks to all who attended and made this event a success! Also, thanks to all the volunteers who worked on this event to make it a success!



Photos by Fred Feltmann















Wednesday, November 5, 2025 5-7 PM Marietta Wine Market 18 Powder Springs St. Marietta, GA



Kennesaw Mountain Wine Tasting Benefit

Hosted by the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

Wine Tasting: \$10 Join us for door prizes, light Door Prize Tickets: 5 for \$20 snacks, and meet fellow friends!

https://friendsofkmnbp.org/







COME ON BY AND HELP US

COME ON BY AND HELP US

RAISE THE SOO, OO NEEDED

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PROJECT TICTION OF A NEW

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE!

PHOTO OF THE PLANNED BRIDGE COMING SOON FRIENDLY

Volume 19, Issue 10

October, 2025

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Articles to look for in this month's newsletter:

- Stilesboro Rd. Closure!!! pg 4 & 5
- NPS Events for the Month of October- see page <u>7</u>
- Bridge Project Fundraiser pages <u>14</u>
- 2025 Fund Drive pages 13 & 14
- October 11th Work Day page 15



Photos by Fred Feltmann, from "Out There" presentation.





November Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the November Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than October 20th!

Calendar of Events - Friends/KMTC

<u>Date</u> <u>Time</u> <u>Location</u> <u>Event</u>

October, 2025

10/11 8 am - Noon Gilbert Road parking lot October, 2025 Work Day

(See map, page 18.)

November, 2025

11/5 5 pm - 7 pm Wine tasting - Marietta Wine Market Friends Fundraiser

11/8 8 am - noon Visitor Center Parking Field November, 2025 Work Day

December, 2024

12/13 8 am - Noon Visitor Center Parking Field December, 2026 Work Day

The Park staff is conducting Virtual Events on their Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP

Current Status Of Park

All NPS outdoor events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park may be suspended.

All trails are open, except as noted, below. All parking lots are open. The Mountain Rd. is closed for personal vehicles on weekends and Holidays. The Mountain Road parking lot is open when the Mountain Road is open until 12/31/25. After this date the Mountain Road will no longer be open for personal vehicles.

The shuttle bus is now transporting visitor to/from the Visitor Center/Kennesaw Mountain Top Parking Lot on weekends & Holidays; beginning January 1, 2026, the shuttle will run daily.

Trail closures

The horse trail crossing on John Ward Creek on the Kolb Farm East Trail is closed until further notice because of the treacherous creek crossing there - see notice/comment on page 3.

See page 9 for a listing of NPS-sponsored events for the month of October.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook

The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook sponsored by the Friends of KMNBP is now available on Amazon.

"Earthworks" is published monthly jointly by the Friends of KMNPB & the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.

Editor: Fred Feltmann

678-315-5888

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

List of Abbreviations

FOKM - Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

KMNBP - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

KMTC - Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

NPS/KEMO - National Park Service/Kennesaw Mountain

VHP - Veterans History Project

VC - Visitor Center

Newsletter Sign-up

Would you like to receive our newsletter? To sign up, click on the following link: http://eepurl.com/gKjX1n Complete and submit this form. You'll be added to our subscription list.

Wish to unsubscribe? Simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the email forwarding the newsletter link, and you'll be permanently removed from our mailing list. To re-subscribe, you will need to use a different email address removal is permanent for the original email address!



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

> (770) 427-4686 phone www.nps.gov/kemo

National Park Service, U.S.Department of the Interior, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152, (770) 427-4686 phone, www.nps.gov/kemo

Kennesaw Mountain News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, Marjorie thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

John Ward Creek Crossing Closed to Horseback Riders

Kennesaw, GA – Effective immediately, the John Ward Creek crossing just south of the Illinois Monument is closed to horseback riders until further notice. This closure stems from a safety concern due to hazardous conditions relating to an unstable streambed. The closure affects the creek crossing between Milepost 3.5 and Milepost 4 of the Kolb's Farm East Trail.

Superintendent Patrick Gamman states, "We are concerned for the safety of all park users. Crossing John Ward Creek at this section of the trail poses a risk that we want to alert our horse community to, as it could potentially cause harm to both horse and rider. We will be working as quickly as possible to mitigate this problem."

Please contact the park at 770-427-4686 or visit the park's website at <u>www.nps.gov/kemo</u> for further information.

The National Park Service

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at the NPS website, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Stilesboro Road Closures - Update September, 2, 2025

Kennesaw Mountain NBP, Cobb County DOT, and Cobb County Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) have been working together regarding a large upcoming project regarding Stilesboro Road. Please plan accordingly when coming to the park to volunteer. The park will be providing additional information through the various media outlets; however, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the park. If any changes to the schedule takes place, you will be notified.

Below is the information provided by the project manager:

Please be advised that beginning Tuesday, September 2, 2025, the Cobb County Department of Transportation (Cobb County DOT) and the Cobb County Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) will be closing Stilesboro Road, from Gilbert Road to the Visitor Center's Entrance, to replace and upgrade an underground water main. See the link below for anticipated road closure dates. Access to the visitor center lot will remain open during all phases of construction.

This closure will affect travel routes to the park's Visitor Center. The entrance to the Visitor Center parking lot will only be accessible via Old Highway 41.

Officials from Cobb County DOT have assured that there will be multiple detours around the road closure. This closure is scheduled to occur in three phases and will also tie into the pre-construction work affiliated with the proposed new roundabouts on Old Highway 41.

For more information regarding the project, please visit the link below where you can view CCMWA's project flyer, maps, and contact information:

https://www.ccmwa.org/our-system/construction-projects

Image Description: Trees with green foliage flank a road entrance to a busy parking lot.

Image Credit: NPS Photo

There will be multiple detours to utilize while traveling during this necessary closure. Please reference the approved detour map.

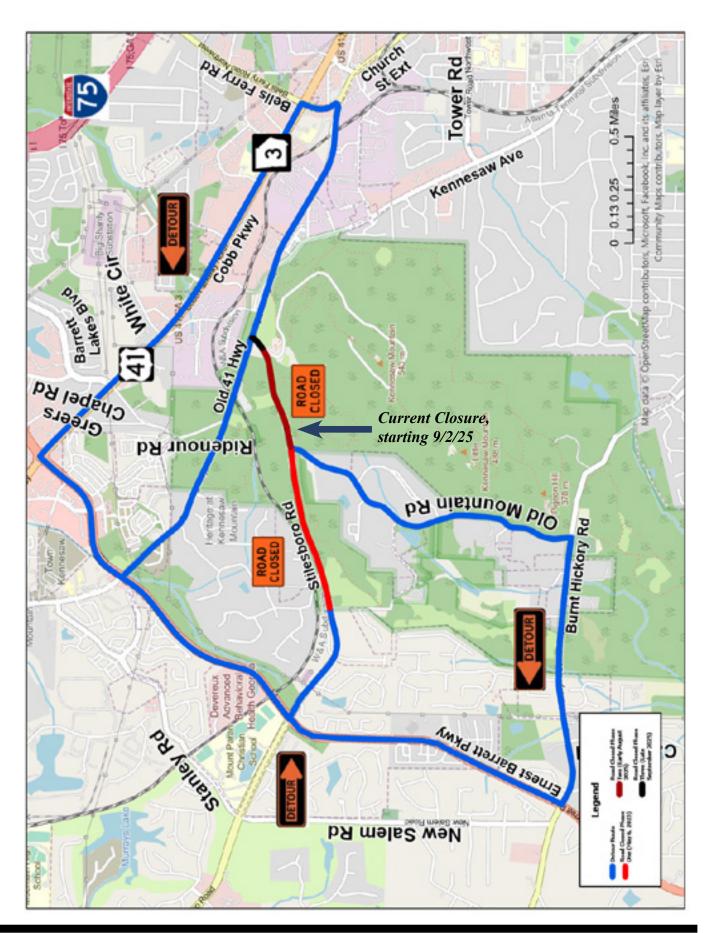
For more information regarding lane and road closures in Cobb County, please visit www.cobbcommute.org

Respectfully, Amanda Corman Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Editor's Note: Please see also the following website for more specific details:









Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Interpretive Programs for October



Museum Tours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday @ 2:00 pm!

October 4, @11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm - Artillery Demonstrations

Artillery was a vital component to the operations of both armies during the Atlanta Campaign and played a key role in several engagements during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Our living historians will hold camp throughout the day, with artillery shoots at the end of each program.

October 5 @11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm: Infantry Demonstrations

The Atlanta Campaign was known for the brutal conditions in the trenches and relentless fighting. The soldier that bore the brunt of these hardships was the average infantryman. The programs at the above listed times explore this profession, including camp life and drill. There will be rifle shoots at the end of each program

October 11, @ 11 am - Mountain Top Hike

This ranger-led hike will take you roughly 1 mile up to the peak of Big Kennesaw Mountain. Along the way, you'll learn about the flora and fauna of the area and the history that shapes us from pre-history, through Civil War and on to today.

The hike is semi-strenuous so bring water and good shoes!

October 11, @ 10:00 am thru 3:00 pm - National Write-Out

Write Out is a free two-week celebration that will run October 12-26, 2025 where we step outside the doors of our classrooms, homes, and workplaces to write and create. Volunteers will be stationed near the park's Visitor Center offering writing prompts and engaging with visitors to awaken your senses and enjoy your favorite National Battlefield!

October 12 @11 am - Life of a Soldier Gear Layout

Life for the infantry soldier (Union or Confederate) was anything but easy. Long marches, bad food, and worse living conditions made it tough going for these young men. Join us as we lay out the gear that made such intense campaigning possible. You will see period-correct uniforms, weaponry and even get up close and personal with artifacts from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain!

October 19 @11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm: Infantry Demonstrations

The Atlanta Campaign was known for the brutal conditions in the trenches and relentless fighting. The soldier that bore the brunt of these hardships was the average infantryman. The programs at the above- listed times explore this profession, including camp life and drill. There will be rifle shoots at the end of each program.

*Parking is near Texas Monument on Cheatham Hill Dr.

October 25, @11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm – Artillery Demonstrations

Artillery was a vital component to the operations of both armies during the Atlanta Campaign and played a key role in several engagements during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Our living historians will hold camp throughout the day, with artillery shoots at the end of each program.

*Parking is near Texas Monument on Cheatham Hill Dr.

October 26, @ 11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm – Civil War Halloween Stories

The carnage, violence, and scale of the American Civil War has inspired tales of the strange, and sometimes supernatural. There's the tale of Green Eyes at Chattanooga/Chickamauga National Military Park. Reports of a strange lifesaving light known as 'Angel Fire' comes after the Battle of Shiloh. Join our rangers at the above listed times for these tales and more!

*All outdoor programs are weather- dependent.
*Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be held at the Visitor Center
*Bring plenty of water and appropriate footwear/ clothing for activities

The above events may be temporarily postponed because of the government shutdown. See their website for the latest updates & status - https://www.nps.gov/kemo/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm





2025 National Parks Friends Alliance Fall Meeting

Fred and Mike Collett attended the 2025 National Parks Friends Alliance meeting at Gateway Arch National Park in St Louis from Sept 15 to Sept 17.





The Friends Of Kennesaw Mountain

The Friends of Kennesasw Mountain's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to provide volunteers and raise funding to support activities such as:

- Visitor & Away Events
- Transportation, Housing, and Feeding of volunteer groups (example: Living History, Student Conservation Association, Invasive Plants Team)
- Museum Upgrades and Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Additions (& the Wallis House)
- Restrooms, Parking, and Picnic Area Facilities
- Trails, Fire Roads, and Bridges Maintenance
- Educational Day Trips and Vacation Camps
- Volunteer-In-Park Training Programs

The ultimate goal is to create endowments for the most significant expense items and move them toward a sustainable and perpetual self-funded status that reduces the need for these items to rely on federal budget support.



Volunteering Opportunities!

There are many ways to volunteer at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Through the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park these are a few of the options:

Members of the The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

Contact Donald Olds for the many opportunities.

President, Friends of KMNBP - donald.olds962@gmail.com

Crew Leader

Lead volunteers doing trail maintenance on the second Saturday of every month and on special projects

Requires attendance at a training course and hands-on-training

Contact Mike Collett for details

Trails Director, Mike Collett trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Trail Ambassador

Staffs registration table and parking on Trail Work Days

Does trail patrols on your own schedule

Supports various field trips led by NPS staff

Supports various NPS activities

Requires attendance at a training course and hands-on-training

Contact Kathy Van Valkenburg or Lauri Poppel

Trail Ambassador Co-Director, Kathy Van Valkenburg <u>ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</u>
Trail Ambassador Co-director, *Lauri Poppel* <u>ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</u>

Volunteer - general

Signs up monthly to work on our Trail Work Days

https://friendsofkmnbp.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/

Contact Amanda Corman at

Corman at

Contact Amanda Corman at

Corman at

Contact Amanda Corman

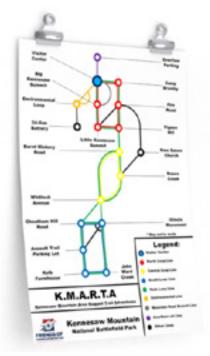


The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Webstore

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is excited to announce our new webstore! Our first product is a unisex T-shirt, which is 100% cotton. The design on the back of the shirt shows Kennesaw Mountain and the Visitor Center. It is inspired by the New Deal travel posters from the 1930's. The shirt can be purchased online for \$20 at https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/. Visit our website! *New items have been added!*

Andrew Bramlett





Some of the items for sale.





Portable Section Maps

Use the QR Code, below, to download the section maps for the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.



Friend's Brochure - 2026 Fund Drive



Become a supporting member of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP)

The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

These include:

Hiking/Equestrian Trail improvements and Maintenance

Museum improvements and expansion

Living History Demonstrations

Additional parking and restrooms

Guest speakers

More

Our long term goal is to establish endowments to provide perpetual sources of funding for the programs that make the park special for all of us and generations to come.



Your annual membership will help us achieve our goals. We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. 100% of all funds received are put to use for and at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Annual membership levels:

- □Hiker up \$249 □Trail Guide \$250
- □ Peak Performer \$500
- □ Superintendent's Circle \$1,000 □ Canine Corps \$120
- □Park Sustainer \$10/mo+

(\$120 Annually)

□Tribute Salute – Amount given in honor/memory of someone



Five Ways To Donate

You can support the Friends in 6 ways:

- Directly through our website https://friendsofkmnbp.org/giving-membership/donate/
- 2. Through PayPal https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/3750205
- Through Guidestar (Network for Good) https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827
- 4. QR Code:



5. By mailing a check to:

Friends of KMNBP 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

Thanks for your support!

Please Use the pledge card on the following page when mailing in a donation.

Please check with your company to see if they will match your gift.



2026 Pledge Card

Note: New category - 2025 Bridge Project!!!!

This is a \$60,000 Project - can you pledge \$50, \$100, \$500, or more? If so, please complete the Pledge Card, below, and send it to the address on the card - we've already raised over \$16,000!



Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park			
			Payment terly Payment
			hly Payment
Name	□Peak Performer \$ □Superintendent's Circle \$1	\$500 1.000	your company match? Y N
Address	□Canine Corps	\$120 \$10/mo+ Invoi	ce me
City, State, ZipPhone	(\$120 Ann □Tribute Salute – Amount	diven in	thly Quarterly)
Email_	honor/memory of s	compone Chec	k enclosed .ble to " <i>Friends of KMNBP</i> ")
Complete and mail to:	Pledge: Amt General Fund - Friends Trail Club -	Credi	it Card Number:
I I	Living History - Endowment Fund Bridge Fund	11 -	ation date ity Code
Kennesaw, GA 30152	Check one or designate amount	for each. I wish	n to remain anonymous



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

Workday 09-13-25

This plan covers the highly eroded hill on Hardage Mill Trail north of Nose Creek Bridge. We were to build 12 horse steps if we have time and enough volunteers.

On Friday, September 12, Bill, Donald, Eric, Tom, and Mike met at the maintenance shop. With the help of Michael Christman, we cut the 2"x6"s to length, the rebar to length, drilled holes for the rebar in the 2"x6"x6's. We took the material to the worksite and placed the first two steps in position.

On Saturday, Mike welcomed the volunteers, mentioned the October workday and Crew Leader Training, reviewed the day's workplan, Fred took pictures and Geoff watched the parking lot after the ambassadors left.

We had 11 crew leaders. The Crew Leaders were Aashrith, Bill, Curt, Donald, Eric, Fred, Geoff, Kirsten, Robert, Tom, and me. We had 5 Trail Ambassadors; they were Debbie, Janet, Laurie, Scott, and Yvonne. They did registration and directed the volunteers to the parking area. We had 22 volunteers. The volunteers were from Allatoona High School Navy JROTC unit (7), Kennesaw State Big Sisters (9), the

Continued on Page 16

"Other" Volunteers Needed!

Interested in being more active with the Trail Club (or the Friends), but don't want to do Crew Leader or Trail



Ambassador work? See page **10** for a list of activities/ functions needed to maintain the organizations and contact the various department heads to volunteer!

Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!

Contact Mike Collett (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

A training class for prospective Trail Ambassadors will be announced shortly.

Mike Collett - trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner -

ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2024 (October 2023- September 2024 and Fiscal 2025 (October 2024- Present):

FY 2024

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB
ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE SERVICE CONNECTION CLUB
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KSU

FY 2025

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB

BSA SCOUT - UNIT UNKNOWN

BSA TROOP 802

HILLGROVE HS NJROTC

RE1

This Past Month's Volunteers

We had 38 total volunteers for the September 13, 2025 Work Day, from the following organizations, along with several individuals:

ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB ALLATOONA HS NJROTC KENNESAW STATE BIG SISTERS

October 11th Work Day

Our next workday is Saturday, October 11, 2025. We will be cleaning the remaining 20 earthworks on the 24 Gun Trail and finishing the cyclic maintenance that did not get done on the June 7 REI workday. We will meet at Gilbert Road parking lot. (See map, page 18.)

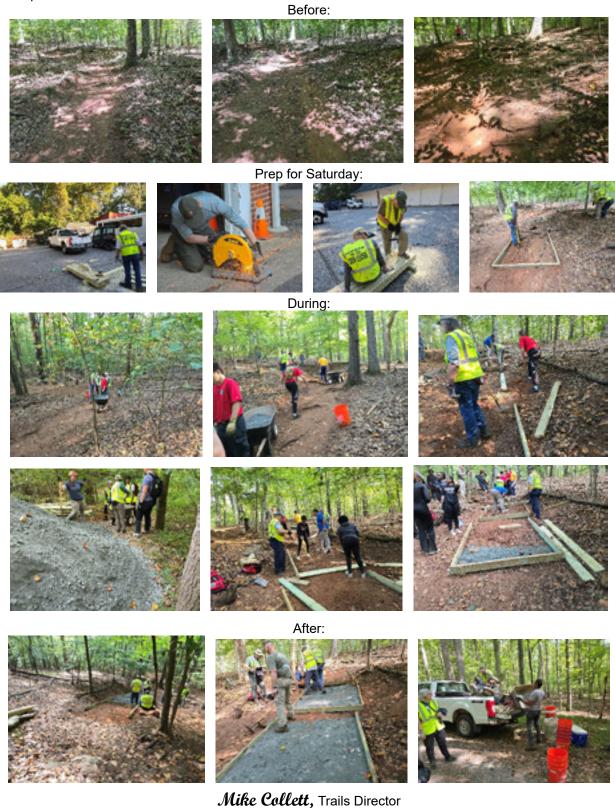
Mike Collett

Trails Director

9/13/25 Work Day Continued from Page 15

Atlanta Outdoor Club, (3, Kirsten and I are part of that number) and 6 individuals.

Kirsten and Aashrith led the group shoveling Crush & Run into buckets and wheelbarrows. Bill, Curt, Donald, Eric, Robert, and Tom built the new steps, brought Crush & Run to the worksite, and used the Crush & Run to fill in the steps. The volunteers alternated between carrying the needed materials (more 2"x6"s and Crush & Run) to the worksite and helping build the steps.



Newsletter 16 https://friendsofkmnbp.org

Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at. By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.



October 11 Work Day -

Parking and registration is in the Gilbert Rd. parking lot - https://friendsofkmnbp.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/

See page 18 for location/directions.

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

We are back in the business of trail maintenance! See the sign-up links, above. We are still limiting our numbers, but anyone one is now welcome to sign-up.

The Trail Club will provide supervision and tools. Volunteers should wear work clothes (*long pants are required*) and closed toed shoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water, work gloves and masks. The NPS Volunteer Service Agreement and COVID forms are required, signed by a parent or guardian, if the student is under 18 years old. The forms are available on the trail club web site: http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/volunteer.php

For October's work day, parking and registration will be in the Gilbert Rd. parking lot. Vehicle Entrance Passes will issued at registration.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at trails@

kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails. Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 281,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to our normal work days.

Cancellation policy

If rain is forecast for the work day, we will issue a cancellation notice on our website at least 24 hours before hand. In addition, during the winter months, if the temperature is forecast to be below 40 degrees, we will also issue a cancellation at least 24 hours prior to the work day.

KMTC Contact List - Updated 9/16/24 POSITION NAME

Trails Director

Community Volunteer Di

Community Volunteer Director

Newsletter Editor

Information/Technology Director Trail Ambassador Co-Director Trail Ambassador Co-Director

Plants Director

KMTC Website

NPS Website

Facebook Page

* updated

Mike Collett <u>trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</u>

Vacant* volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

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 Jerry Givan
 webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/

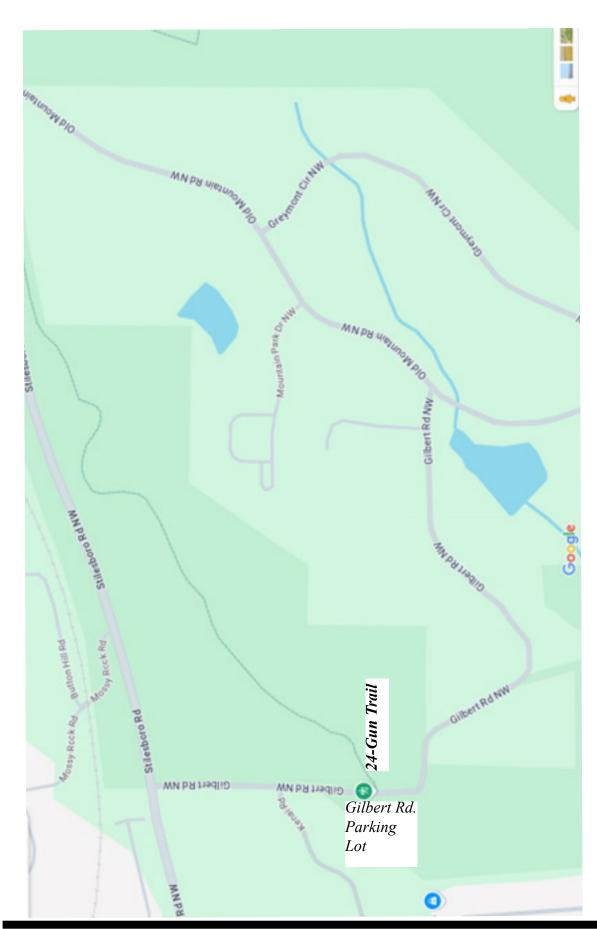
https://www.nps.gov/KEMO

Kathy Van Valkenburg

Lauri Poppel*

Danny Leigh

http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial



Newsletter 18 https://friendsofkmnbp.org

9/13/25 Work Day Photos Photos by Fred Feltmann

















Sponsors/Partners CornerMany thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!







http://americanhiking.org



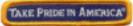




















KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

