

# Volunteer Briefing

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FEBRUARY 2025

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Tarland Trails



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# So, You've Decided to Volunteer

Thank you for choosing to volunteer your time to support Tarland Trails! Our volunteer days are essential to providing and maintaining the amazing trails that all visitors enjoy. Your contribution helps us create a vibrant and sustainable trail system for the community.

## Volunteer Session Categories

Our volunteer sessions typically fall into one of four categories, each offering a variety of tasks suitable for different confidence levels, energy, and strength. Any level of support is appreciated.

1. **Trail Building:** This involves creating new trails, such as our recent "Project Mushroom," a hand-built trail designed based on rider feedback. Tasks can range from shaping lines to creating berms and features
2. **Trail Maintenance:** Keeping our existing trails in top-notch condition is crucial for an epic riding experience. Maintenance tasks may include clearing debris, repairing trail surfaces, and ensuring signage is visible, and many other tasks as they are identified to ensure well running trails
3. **Tree Planting:** Enhancing the natural environment around our trails through tree planting helps with erosion control and adds to the beauty of the area. Tasks can include digging holes, planting saplings, and installing protective measures
4. **Clean-up:** This could be litter picking, removing old fences, or even removing old tree tubes, all necessary to support both trail users and the environment.

No prior experience is needed for any of our volunteer sessions, whether you are experienced or new to working on trails, there's a role for you.

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## What to Bring

To ensure a safe and comfortable experience during your volunteer session, please consider bringing the following:

- **Appropriate Outdoor Clothing:** Dress in layers to adapt to changing weather conditions. Waterproof and windproof outer layers are recommended
- **Footwear:** Sturdy footwear suitable for uneven terrain
- **Gloves:** Bringing your own pair of work gloves is recommended for comfort and protection. If you don't have any, we can provide gloves on-site, but our supply is limited
- **Tools:** While we provide enough tools for all volunteers, you're welcome to bring any personal tools you're comfortable using. Ensure they are in good condition and appropriate for the tasks at hand. If you choose to take your own, please ensure you show them to the dig coordinator before bringing them up the hill so that we can confirm suitability/safety.

Additional Recommendations:

- **Refreshments:** Bring sufficient water and snacks to stay hydrated and energized throughout the session
- **Sun Protection:** Even on overcast days, consider wearing sunscreen and a hat to protect against UV rays
- **Midge/Ticks:** Midge spray and a tick twister might both be useful, but this isn't something we've had complaints about.

We often bring cakes, sweets and other treats to share, but it's always good to have your own supply just in case

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## Safety and Well-being

Your safety is our priority. Please follow all safety guidelines provided during the session. If you're unsure about a task or feel uncomfortable at any point, don't hesitate to speak up. We aim to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all volunteers.

### **First Aid**

All our dig leaders are first aid qualified/trained and carry a first aid kit. You are welcome to bring your own first aid kit if you own one. Also, if you are qualified/trained, please bring it to the attention of the dig leader at the start of the session.

## Stay Connected

For updates on upcoming volunteer events and projects, please visit [www.tarlandtrails.com/events-list](http://www.tarlandtrails.com/events-list) or subscribe to our newsletter to hear about future events. If you have any questions or need further information before the volunteer day, feel free to contact us at [tarlandtrails@gmail.com](mailto:tarlandtrails@gmail.com).

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. Let's make great trails together!