

FLTC POLICY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FLT SUMMARY

The Board of Managers adopted a policy for Special Events held on the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) on September 27, 2008. A Special Event for use in this policy is defined as an organized outing, gathering or activity, whether a part of a regularly scheduled series or one of a kind event, coordinated by an individual, organization, or commercial entity. The policy was adopted to protect the landowner and assure trail use commensurate with his/her requirements, protect the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) from unnecessary risk, and help assure the enjoyment and safety of FLT users. The FLTC values highly the privilege of trail access extended to it by both private and public landowners. The privilege extended is to build and maintain a "foot trail" exclusively for pedestrian use, unless other arrangements have been required by, and/or agreed to by, the landowner(s).

POLICY STATEMENT

The FLTC does not support the following where the trail exists on private lands:

- Commercial events (see "Exceptions" below)
- Competitive events
- Spectator events on or along the trail
- Activities that are not specifically listed in the NYS General Obligations Law

The FLTC supports large group events of 25 or more participants that are not listed above. This support extends to events held either on private or public land only when event organizers have followed certain practices as follows:

1. All event participants are made aware that the trail is designed for a "wilderness" experience and is therefore used by slow moving foot travelers for whom full courtesy must be extended.
2. The trail must be shared with all users under all circumstances, and, when the trail segment is designated "multi-use", participants are to give way to and move around pedestrians; the faster moving participant should yield to the slower moving participant.
3. Event participants should minimize trail damage and avoid moving off of the trail track resulting in a widening of the trail track and extending damage to the vegetation bordering the trail.
4. The special event organizer shall be responsible for any trail damage and must make appropriate repairs to the satisfaction of the landowner and FLTC. This condition should be included in event agreements by the public land manager.
5. Large groups should be broken into smaller more manageable groups and participants should be requested to travel single file..
6. Wet trail conditions should be considered and anticipated when scheduling events and avoided wherever possible.
7. Parking must be arranged in a way that both will not annoy landowners and will avoid presenting an unsafe condition along public roadways.

Events organized and managed by non-FLTC groups and/or persons, to exclude the Club President Council member organizations and the North Country Trail Association, may not use the FLTC name in promotional material in any way, and, may not imply that the FLTC is a co-sponsor or collaborator, receives any portion of the event proceeds, and/or approves of the event. The FLTC is pleased to receive donations that are made independent of events.

Exceptions:

- Events that are designed for educational purposes, such as guided hikes for the purpose of interpreting nature or historical features.
- Events where a hike on the FLT is a part of an educational program, such as an Elderhostel program, where participants pay a fee.

Reference: Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Events dated September 7, 2008.