



IMPORTANT ATIS TRIP INFORMATION

Activity Descriptions: Most trips leave from the Ausable Club porch. The exceptions are overnights (aside from Alderdice overnights) and trips starting at 7 AM or earlier, which will meet behind the Club at the ATIS Headquarters. Each trip is rated to allow potential participants to judge a trip's difficulty and to insure that all hikers on a given hike are of approximately the same ability and therefore form a homogeneous group. ATIS hikes are not "races", but individuals joining a trip should feel reasonably confident that they can complete the trip within the time stated on the trip schedule. When ages are specified it is the age the child will be on October 1.

AA Trips are full day (10+ hours of hiking) outings covering 18 or more miles.

A Trips are for experienced hikers. Distances covered range from 8-15 miles.

B Trips are generally 4-8 miles in length, are for hikers generally 8-10 years old.

C Trips are primarily for younger children down to age six as long as they are self-sufficient for the duration of the trip. Children under six who can keep up with the group are welcome if accompanied by a parent or responsible babysitter.

Discovery Trips are designed for 4-7 year olds as introductory hiking experiences. The goal is less focused on reaching the summit and more interested in exploring the trail along the way. Activities include storytelling, games, songs, or nature projects.

Nature Activities alternate between programs designed for 4-6 year olds and 7-10 year olds as designated on the trip calendar. Children generally explore the West River Trail while learning about the natural world.

Adult Trips are led by adult volunteers. Trips are now listed on a separate schedule.

What to Bring: See equipment list on trip schedule.

Sign Up Procedure - An advance sign up is required for overnight trips and is recommended for all other trips. The procedures for 2009 remain the same as previous years and are on the back of this sheet.

Transportation - The ATIS must rely on the generosity of parents and other adult drivers for transportation. *ALL PARENTS SHOULD CONSIDER IT AN OBLIGATION TO REMAIN UNTIL A TRIP HAS DEPARTED TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH TRANSPORTATION. ATIS PROGRAMS BENEFIT ALL. EVERYONE SHOULD DO HIS OR HER FAIR SHARE TO MAKE THEM WORK.* Don't let the loyal few unfairly bear the burden.

Bus Ticket Needed - Those joining trips requiring bus transportation to or from the Lower Lake may purchase those tickets on the day of the trip. Fare is \$1.50 one-way for children 12 and under, \$2.75 one way for adults.

Mandatory Health Form - Each participant must now have a "Health Information and Permission to Treat form on file before going on any trip. This form does not require a physical exam or physician's statement, but insures that the counselors are aware of any allergies or medications taken. Copies of this form are available at the ATIS Headquarters, the Club desk, and on the ATIS web site: www.atis-web.com

Cancellation of trips due to weather is rare as many a stormy morning has turned into a beautiful afternoon. Call the ATIS number for information regarding cancellations.



TRIP SIGN UP PROCEDURE

In order to keep group sizes reasonable and comply with current wilderness area regulations a sign-up system has been in place since 1998. Participants may join day trips the morning of the trip simply by showing up, but we recommend advance sign-up to avoid disappointment if the trip happens to be full. Additionally, advance sign-ups help us gauge demand for a particular trip and add a trip if necessary.

1. A counselor will be available in the ATIS Room from 8 AM to 10 AM and from 4 PM to 5 PM Monday through Friday and may be contacted in person or by phone at 576-9157 to sign up. See the trip schedule for the "office hours" during counselor break at the beginning of August.
2. Sign ups will be taken for up to two hiking days in advance starting in the morning two days before the trip (e.g. on Monday, sign ups will be taken for Tuesday & Wednesday on Thursday, sign ups taken for Friday & Monday....)
3. The ATIS phone has an answering machine. Requests for trip sign-ups may be left on the machine. You will be called back to confirm your place on the trip. Additionally, the counselor on duty in the afternoon will update the answering machine message before leaving at 5 PM. Evening callers will thus be able to learn the availability of places on the following day's trips and may leave a message to sign up for any open trip. We will then retrieve these messages and call back to confirm ones spot. The goal will be for the counselor to call back 45 minutes to an hour before the trip is to leave. The only exception will be trips leaving at 6 or 7 AM.
4. If a trip becomes full and we are not able to organize an additional trip, participants will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they register. The counselor on duty will try to call those who have "moved up" onto the trip, but the final responsibility rests with those on the waiting list to call ATIS.
5. Those who show up on the porch without advance registration will be accommodated if there is room - provided they have a "Health Information and Permission to Treat" form on file.
6. Those registered who are forced to cancel at the last minute should call the ATIS number so that the space can be filled. Last minute cancellations and no-shows are a distinct nuisance to deal with and often unfair to others who wanted to go on the trip. Sign up only for trips you know you want to do.

SPECIAL MAIL PRE-REGISTRATION FOR "AA" AND OVERNIGHTS

1. To make sure that everyone has received the trip schedule and had time to respond, all pre-registrations postmarked up to June 8 will be treated equally. In the rare cases where a trip has filled up as of that date, we use a "draw" to assign places. If you include an e-mail address, we will confirm your registration that way as of June 11 or 12. Otherwise, postcards will be mailed the week of June 15 informing you of your status. If it's really crucial to know of your status earlier, call as of June 15.

2. Pre-registration must include any cost for overnights.

3. After the program starts in July, you may sign up for any open "AA" or overnight with the counselor in the ATIS Room.

4. In order to allow as many children as possible to go on an Alderdice overnight, please sign up for only one each month. You may include the Lost Pond trip on July 28th and the John's Brook trip on August 10th as Alderdice-type trips. You may put your name on the waiting list for more than one trip each month.