



Trail Master Certification Course

Overview

This course will cover the latest advances in trail design, construction and maintenance with a focus on long term sustainability and ease of maintenance. The last day will be field application on the concepts we covered on the previous days interspersed with leadership techniques for working with volunteers. A detailed booklet specific to each segment will be provided. The course consists of three interactive classroom sessions covering the topics listed below.

Please note: all times are subject to change based on the dynamic of the class.

Trail Design and Layout – November 15

We will cover advances on how to properly design and layout a trail. We will discuss how to avoid erosion, user conflicts, and impact problems through design. This session will give you a good working knowledge of what causes trails to erode through water/soil relationships. An outdoor session will consist of a series of flagging and layout drills designed to utilize the concepts covered in the classroom.

8:30 am	Start classroom session
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Continue session
11:45 am	Test
12:00 pm	Lunch; provided by host
12:30 pm	Outdoor session
3:30 pm	Final comments/ wrap up

Trail Construction – November 16

We will cover proper corridor clearing for all types of use and proper construction of a durable tread surface. Various types of tread construction, cribbing and raised tread sections, switchbacks and a section on bridges and boardwalks are also included. An outdoor session will consist of construction techniques covered in the classroom. A demonstration of tread construction machinery may be included.

8:00 am	Start classroom session
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Continue session
11:45 am	Test
12:00 pm	Lunch; provided by host
12:30 pm	Outdoor session
3:30 pm	Final comments/ wrap up

Trail Maintenance – December 6

We will cover maintenance issues on trails. We will discuss how to make long-term repairs and lower environmental impacts. Trail hardening techniques along with rehabilitation of disused trails will also be covered. The outdoor session will consist of maintenance techniques covered in the classroom.

8:00 am	Start classroom session
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Continue session
11:45 am	Test
12:00 pm	Lunch; provided by host
12:30 pm	Outdoor session
3:30 pm	Final comments/ wrap up

Crew leader – December 7

This portion of the program will be held entirely outdoors and will give each student the opportunity to lead a crew. The day will be broken into three sessions. At the end of the third session certificates for those that completed the course will be issued.

8:00 am	Session One (trail head)
10:45 am	Session Two (on trail)
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Session Two and Three
3:30 pm	Final comments/ wrap up/ hand out certificates.

What to bring:

A willingness to learn new concepts in trail design

Pen and paper

Good work boots or shoes

Work gloves

Since we will be outside for part of every day, please dress accordingly.

SORBA Huntsville Trail Master Course Application

Deadline to apply is **Oct. 15, 2014**. Complete application, detach and send to SORBA Huntsville, 2930 High Mountain Road, Huntsville, AL 35811; or, scan completed app and email to sorbahsv@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Init _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ DOB _____

Email _____

Current SORBA Huntsville member? Circle **Yes** or **No**

Have you been involved with trail building or maintenance projects in the past? If so, explain your involvement. If not, please explain why you are interested in the Trail Master Program:

Please describe your past leadership and volunteer experience:

Please describe your past trail building or maintenance experience:

By signing this document, you agree to your presence at all four class days and commit to 40 hours of volunteer trail maintenance and build service to the SORBA Huntsville Trails Committee annually for a period of three years. You also commit to maintaining a current SORBA Huntsville membership and to sitting on the Trails Committee to determine and schedule projects from Dec 2014-Dec 2017. If you agree with the terms above, please sign below:

Signature Date

FAQ

What is a Trail Master?

A Trail Master is a dedicated volunteer leader who is certified in the latest sustainable trail building and maintenance techniques. They serve as volunteer leaders and are vital to helping build and maintain trails primarily on Monte Sano in Monte Sano State Park and Land Trust property with a long view of developing sustainable multi-use trail in Madison County and North Alabama. After attending a four-day course in the latest techniques in sustainable trail building and maintenance, Trail masters serve as crew chiefs during volunteer trail work days and serve on the SORBA Huntsville Trails Committee for the purpose of planning and coordinating work.

What is the cost and time commitment?

The full cost per person is \$535, but SORBA Huntsville is subsidizing the course at 86% for SORBA Huntsville members so that participant cost is \$75 to cover meals and instruction materials. Some full scholarships are available based on need; please indicate in your application if you would like to be considered for full scholarship. Trail Masters commit to a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer build and maintenance service per year on projects approved through the Trails Committee for a period of three years.

When is the course offered?

Participants must be present for all four class days to receive certification. The course will be held Nov. 15-16 and Dec. 6-7, 2014.

How do I become a Trail Master?

To become a Trail Master, you must first apply for the course in order to be considered. If you are accepted, you will be invited to attend a four-day course led by Trail Design Specialists President Mike Riter that provides classroom and on-trail instruction held on Monte Sano on how to build and maintain natural surface trails. Your continued work on projects will hone your skill and expertise as a true Trail Master.

How do I apply?

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Got questions?

Email sorbahsv@gmail.com