



Dartmouth Outing Club First-Year Trips

P.O. Box 9, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Application for Trip Leader Trainer, Trips 2010

What is a Trip Leader Trainer (TLT)?

TLTs are volunteers in charge of recruitment, selection, and training of trip leaders. This involves publicizing and actively recruiting during Winter term 2011; creating/grading the Leader application; running training seminars (Group Dynamics, Risk Assessment, and Wilderness Skills); and conducting the Day 0 Leader training on Gilman Island (see Figure 1).



(Figure 1 above)

TLTing is one of the most important parts of trips (I was a TLT myself so I guess I am a bit biased). You get to help shape the trip leaders which are the bread a butter of trips and without whom trips would not exist.

The TLTs are members of the Trips Directorate, the group of students who set the tone and policies for Trips 2010. Other members of the Directorate are the Director, Assistant Director, Safety Master, Inclusivity and Outreach Intern, and the Croo Chiefs.

How much time does it take to be a TLT?

This is very variable, but is a significant time commitment, which differs each week. During the spring term, a TLT might expect to put in about ten hours of work a week (perhaps more when reading trip leader applications). Commitments during the summer depend on the TLT-ing schedule that is set up in the spring. During Trips, TLT-ing is a 24-hour-a-day job.

How many Trip Leader Trainers are there?

Trips 2010 will have three TLTs. TLTs are not pre-assigned to specific areas of leader training.

What are the requirements to be a TLT?

- Each TLT must be a former Trip Leader.
- Each TLT must be in Hanover during Trips 2011 (the last week of August through the third week of September).

- All three TLTs must be around during Spring 2010. At least one (ideally two) TLT must be around during Summer 2011.
- All TLTs must be, or be willing to become, driver, van, and bus certified.
- At least two TLTs must have extensive wilderness experience, and must feel comfortable teaching wilderness skills to trip leaders.
- Be comfortable teaching leadership and group dynamics skills to leaders
- Be willing to WORK YOUR BUTT OFF but have a blast doing it
- Have a strong desire to make training a fun and exciting experience for trip leaders

If you aren't around in the Summer, or don't have much wilderness experience, you can still be a TLT! Trips needs the combined powers of three distinct people, kind of like Captain Planet but with only 3. TLTs work together, pooling their skills and time in order to turn out an awesome training experience.

Sound like more fun than a long tail'd cat in a room full of rockin' chairs? Apply!

Applications are **due Tuesday, January 11th at 1:11:11.11 pm (get it, 1/11/11)**. Turn in your application via blitz (email anyone?) to DOC.Trips@dartmouth.edu, or in hard copy to the Trips office in Robo 103 (duplex print, save_trees!).

* If you are applying for multiple directorate positions, please turn in a separate application for each position and include a copy of your answer to 'Questions for all applications' with each application.

Your application should include the following:

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❖ **A cover page with your name and year. Feel free to liven up the cover with an epic drawing, goofy picture, reflective haiku, finger painting, witty remark, etc. Your cover won't be part of the selection process so plain is fine too.**

Also, the cover is a great place for doodling when you get bored answering all these questions. Now you can spend time finding puppy photos on the net and still feel like you're working on your app!

❖ **Your D-plan through the fall of 2011.**

❖ **Your past involvement in Trips.**

❖ **Your answers to the questions below.**

(Some questions definitely blend in with others. Feel free to shift things around, just make sure you mention each point.)

Questions for all applicants:

If you are also applying to be AD, Safety Master, Outreach Intern, or Croo Chief, you only need to answer these questions once.

- 1) What is your favorite memory or part about trips and why is it so meaningful to you?
- 2) The Trips program is a very social, very team-oriented organization. A good sense of diplomacy and an ability to work constructively with others is a necessary skill in the Trips program. Briefly describe your experiences working in groups, both in a leadership and non-leadership capacity. Describe an experience you've had with a bad group dynamic. (What went wrong? How did you deal with the situation?)
- 3) What do you believe the purpose of trips is? Does it have a clear mission in your mind?
- 4) No more than 7 sentences about your involvements on campus

Questions for TLT applicants:

- 5) Why are you applying to be a TLT? What can you personally bring to the TLT position?
- 6) As a TLT, you will be teaching your fellow students skills ranging from pooping in the woods to dealing with a cracked out tripee. What experience do you have teaching other people new skills? What do you see as the most important factors to keep in mind when teaching?
- 7) Creativity plays a crucial role in keeping training interesting. How could we change an element of a past year's training to make it more interesting/effective/informative/etc...
- 8) A lot of leaders will have done this before or may just see this as another dumb requirement. How do we engage with leaders of different ability levels and skill sets?
- 9) Briefly describe your outdoors experience. Are you familiar with any trails or rivers used during Trips? Are you a certified leader in any DOC clubs? Ever seen a marmot?
- 10) Do you have any medical certifications? Have you ever used these medical skills?
- 11) If you could design your co-TLTs to perfectly complement you, what strengths would they have to make up for your weaknesses? How do you keep you're self going when you're stressed and very tired?
- 12) What will be your major time commitments (other than Trips) during the Winter, Spring, and Summer terms? If you will not be in Hanover over the summer, will you be able to travel to Hanover for a weekend to run a seminar or other training? (If you don't know your summer plans yet, no worries.)

How are TLTs selected?

The Director will read all the applications and make the selection. All applicants will be informed of the decision by February 9, 2011.

Parting words...

Although TLTs lack the glory of other trips positions it is one of the most important jobs for trips. They see every single trip leader and make sure they are ready to lead their trip safely and effectively. They make sure trips stay for trippees and will be a fun and comfortable experience. From Scott, last year's director: "On the scale from 0 to awesome, TLTs score about an 11.2. The TLTs train every single leader - this training directly affects every single Trippee. TLTs play a *huge* role in creating the Trips experience."

TLTing can be a hard job, whether its spring and you're reading hundreds of trip leader applications or whether its Gilman Island and you're so exhausted you can barely stand up but you must cook dinner for 30 people over a fire. But its one of the most important jobs in trips, you AFFECT EVERY TRIPPEE and when you train your leaders well and they lead good trips you have just made more than 1,000 freshman feel very welcome and incredibly happy.

This is why TLT-ing is such an important job. When the TLTs are psyched and eager to teach the material in a creative way they can turn leader training into a fun and exciting experience (I swear, I've seen it done many times). TLTs help to ensure the safety and good times of over 1,000 freshman (and 250+ leaders)! It's a wild ride, and well worth every moment. Again from Scott, "*To be a TLT you have to be selfless and totally stoked on Trips. If this sounds like you, then you're at the right place.*" You never get to meet the '15s during trips but after trips every time you overhear a conversation between freshmen about how incredible a trip or trip leader was you get to smile and know that you did that!!

Blitz me or 'doctrips' if you have any questions about anything. I will gladly talk to you for hours about being a TLT! It's the best job ever!

-Emily Unger, Trips Director, 2011

