

CARETAKER GEAR SUGGESTIONS 2015

Welcome to the outdoors! Some of the equipment for your caretaker duties is provided by the Green Mountain Club. Over the season you will be living in a remote location with little supervision and experience a variety of weather conditions. What you plan to bring will save you time running around your days off searching (and paying) for essentials of mountain existence. This list has suggestions and is by no means an exact catalog of what is necessary for your caretaker position.

At higher elevation sites, the weather can change dramatically during the day. You should always be prepared for the worst and hope for the best. Old hiker sayings include, "If you used everything in your pack you didn't bring enough stuff." The traveling light philosophy doesn't work here; you *will* be out there in harsh weather, and you will need the extra gear to be helping others in an emergency.

The weather in late June and July is pretty forgiving, but some nights at your site could be chilly and damp, so bring appropriate clothing. You definitely want some warm-when-wet clothes by mid August when autumn arrives at Vermont's higher elevations. Typically, you will be wearing shorts, wool socks, and a GMC T-shirt (this the Club provides in a random annual color including purple) but you should *always* have rain gear, windbreaker, winter hat & gloves, wool shirt or a fleece ready to wear due to weather changes or for work on the ridges, etc. Having an extra pair of socks and a dry T-shirt handy might be a good idea as well. For your site, bring an extra pair of boots with you; it is important to have a dry pair around. You do have to provide your own food and the Club will have suggestions of where is the best place to shop in your area.

Most of the sites have lockers or caches to store your things while you're out on the trail or on your daze off. The size of storage varies and you'll find that your vehicle will become an equipment room (remember that *no* location is immune from break-ins), but most of all your needs will remain relatively safe stored on site (leave family heirlooms home). Everyone has different levels for what is comfortable but you should minimize your gear list as much as possible. Some personal belongings can be stored at GMC Headquarters.

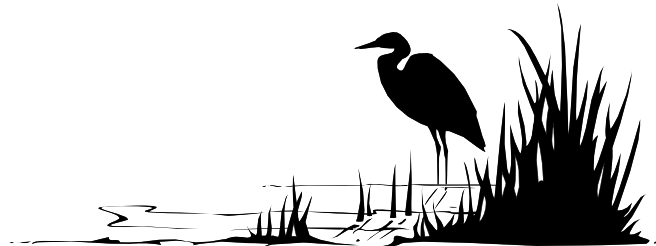
The Green Mountain Club provides: Trail maintenance tools, light hardware tools, radio or cellular phone (at some sites), two-burner stove, 2 GMC T-shirts, GMC baseball cap, first aid kit, water filter, a tent for caretakers not on Mt. Mansfield (Mansfield caretakers stay in the shelters), register book, record book, pencils, and a Long Trail guide book. Summit Caretakers will also receive a weather radio, counter, and a windbreaker.

Suggested Gear List: Hiking boots, camp shoes (sandals, sneakers, waldies or crocs or whatever), several pairs of wool socks, long underwear (polypropylene), hiking shorts, work pants (Carharts, jeans, painter pants etc.), rain pants, gaiters, winter & work gloves, T-shirts, wool shirt, fleece pullover or vest, sweater, windbreaker, rain jacket, bandanna, sunglasses and winter hat; cookware (pot, pan, kettle, utensils, cup, spatula, skillet), and spices. Creative cooking is essential as you will learn (how much oatmeal and pasta and especially lentils can a body take?). Summit caretakers spend a lot of time standing in the elements, mostly without shade. Consequently you should have a wide brimmed hat for the sun, and extra, really warm gear for fall – military-surplus wool pants and extra warm upper layers are recommended.

Other gear: Flashlight (headlamps are great for freeing your hands and night-time sojourns), candle lantern, books you always wanted to read but haven't yet (*Crime and Punishment, Moby Dick, Lord of the Rings, War and Peace*), pocket knife, water bottles, garbage bags for those wet times, lighter or waterproof matches, insect repellent, personal hygiene stuff, backpack, daypack (you will be living with this on your back all day, carrying the first-aid kit, extra clothing etc., water, lunch, tools hanging from it, so a 'day & half' bag is good), sleeping bag (a 20 degree rating is sufficient for summer; a slightly warmer bag, say 5 degrees is recommended for fall and we highly recommend synthetic fill over down; and a blanket could be used sometimes), sleeping pad, small pillow (your sweater or fleece will work too).

The not-so-essential but nice once you get it there stuff: More and better cookware i.e. cast-iron skillet, a big pot, a bowl, coffeepot or French press. Field guides, writing paper, Crazy Creek chair or Thermo-rest chair converter, playing cards, dromedary water bag, camp clothes (comfortable wear i.e. "fuzzy" fleece pants), and a big pillow.

There are manufacturers, retailers and merchants that provide special price lists for GMC staff with whom you can purchase any equipment and clothing at a considerable mark-down. The Green Mountain Club store also has some things such as water bottles, field guide books, various GMC T-shirts, GMC winter hats, ball-caps and headbands which you can buy at a discounted price. We will provide a Long Trail Guide and map.



NOTE:

Lost personal

gear cannot be covered by the GMC's insurance policy. You should check with your insurance carrier and see if your insurance (homeowners or renters) will cover any losses. Never leave valuables or beloved gear in your car overnight at trailheads. You will be able to store extra gear and belongings at the staff housing.