

We can't wait to get back to the mountains! Last summer's program was highlighted by four weekend trips into the White Mountains of New Hampshire. After the approach hikes to the huts, the kids and leaders with leftover energy bagged a few peaks, including Carter Dome (4,832 ft.), the first 4,000-footer climbed by our young hikers. In September, a J.U.M.P. team raised the American flag on Wildcat Summit as part of the "Flags on the 48" event, held each year in memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11. Various local day hikes, along with a two-day wilderness first aid course taught by SOLO, a national leader in wilderness medicine education, rounded out a vigorous and memorable summer.

Here's some of what we have planned this year:

2013 Mountain Calendar

(dates are tentative)

June 7-9: Cardigan Lodge, hike up Mt. Cardigan (3121')

We'll use the lodge's adjacent campsites to offer participants the chance to sleep outside, and to test their tarp-pitching skills.

July 19-21, Lonesome Lake Hut, hike up North Kinsman (4293')

North Kinsman is a testing hike with a terrific view.

August 16-18, Mizpah Spring Hut, hike up Mt. Pierce (4,310')

Mt Pierce has views of Mt. Washington and the Dry River Wilderness.

September 14: "Flags on the 48" event. Peak to be decided.

We'll again participate in this event, which has been held each year since 2001 to honor those who perished on 9/11. For two hours, starting at noon, the American flag will fly from all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000' summits. Participants are also invited to fly the flags of any of the more than 90 other nations that lost citizens that day.

Hikes for the Sight-Impaired

J.U.M.P. has been approved by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) as an activities provider. Our goals are to offer guided day hikes on our local conservation lands to sight-impaired youngsters referred to us by the MCB, and eventually to offer the backpacking experience to blind and low-vision participants.

Thanks to the Harvard Lions Club, we were able to purchase a "talking GPS." Gavin Arnold, a senior at the Bromfield School in Harvard, has been entering data on navigating a few local trails. Meanwhile, the MCB has offered us a sight-impaired young intern, Trevor Cole, who has an interest in hiking. We plan to try out our new skills and technology in late April, by taking Gavin and Trevor on a trip to the Zealand Falls Hut. We hope to map the trail on the way in, and then have Trevor lead us back to the trailhead.

Wilderness First Aid Training, June 1-2

We're continuing our relationship with SOLO, a New Hampshire-based enterprise at the forefront of emergency medical training for hikers and climbers. This year, we're offering two SOLO courses on the same weekend: a basic wilderness first aid course, and an advanced course. We'll offer the basic course to our young participants who have shown commitment to the program. The advanced course will be for our trip leaders, several of whom are EMTs and one of whom is an emergency department physician.