

Saving Wilderness.



Changing Lives.

**Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance
Volunteer Training and Status Policy
Approved: 12/10/2025**

POLICY

Introduction

The Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) relies on our volunteers to accomplish our mission by providing service activities in Patrols, Outreach, Education, and Trail Maintenance. IPWA provides various forms of training annually to ensure that our Volunteers:

- have the most accurate and timely information,
- learn and review relevant skills and techniques,
- conduct themselves appropriately in public-facing service activities in accordance with our agreements with the US Forest Service (USFS).

There are several kinds of IPWA Volunteer Status. A given Volunteer may be trained and qualified for more than one kind of status.

Type of Volunteer Status	Training Requirement
Public Facing (patrol, trailhead host, outreach, education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Training (annual)• In-Person Training (as described below)
Non-Public Facing (sawyer*, administrative and/or management activities where detailed current knowledge is not necessary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Training (once)
Sawyer Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sawyer Training (valid for 2 years)• OSHA First Aid Training
Trail Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No training required; members of public allowed to attend
Winter Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Volunteer in good standing• Winter Online Training (annual)• Winter In Person Training and Field Day(s)• Winter Radio Training (annual)• Wilderness First Aid (valid for 2 years)

* Note: Sawyers may or may not be patrollers. If patrollers, the “Public Facing” AND the Sawyer Training requirements BOTH apply.

This document summarizes IPWA's Volunteer Training and Status Policy, and describes outcomes if training requirements are not met. It also describes:

- Training requirements for Volunteers who have a gap in service of one or more years, whether or not they register and/or complete online training in a given year.
- Implementation Strategy
- Communication of policies to volunteers

Training Policy - Summer Patrols

IPWA offers two forms of training for Volunteer service activities: Online Training using JotForm’s platform, and In-Person Training.

1. All Returning Volunteers are required to complete Online Training annually in order to participate in public-facing activities.
2. All New Volunteers are required to complete Online Training AND attend In-Person Training in order to participate in public-facing activities. In addition, they must complete two patrols with their Mentor and receive clearance from their Mentor in order to complete their acceptance as an IPWA Volunteer.
3. **All Returning Volunteers are required to attend In-Person Training once every five (5) years, at a minimum.** “Attendance” is defined as presence at the introductory session and USFS updates PLUS leading or participating in:
 - a. One or more session of the “Scenarios” section of the training
 - b. One or more session of “Day in the Life” section of the training
 - c. Schedule and Report Review session
 - d. BLRA scheduling and parking policies session
4. If a Returning Volunteer is unable to attend In-Person training when it falls due, they will be given a year’s “grace” and required to attend the following year.
5. Participation in the Training Committee may be counted as fulfilling the In-Person training requirement, at the discretion of the Board, provided that the volunteer has regularly attended Training Committee meetings and has reviewed and provided significant input to training plans and materials.
6. IPWA will contact Returning Volunteers (via email, text and/or phone) who do not complete Training requirements to notify them that they are not cleared to perform public-facing duties and determine if they:
 - a. Want to retire from IPWA and return their uniform
 - b. Want to skip the current year (see Gap in Service section, below)
7. If two attempts have been made to obtain this information from the volunteer with no response, IPWA will consider the Volunteer to be Retired and will initiate efforts for return of uniform shirt and jacket.

Training Policy - Winter Patrols

1. All Winter Patrol volunteers must meet Summer Patrol criteria to participate in public-facing winter patrol activities

2. Volunteers must have completed at least 4 Service Activities during the previous summer season.
3. All Winter Patrol volunteers must complete the Winter Training requirements, including but not limited to Online Training, In-Person Training, Wilderness First Aid, Field Day(s) and radio usage training.

Training Policy - Outreach and Education

All requirements for Summer Patrols must be met for a volunteer to participate in public-facing Outreach and Education.

Training Policy - Trail Maintenance

There are no training requirements to participate in Trail Maintenance, and this activity is open to the public.

Gap in Service Policy

IPWA acknowledges that “life happens” and sometimes our valued volunteers have medical, family, or personal issues that make patrolling (or other service activities) difficult. Volunteers are responsible for notifying IPWA if they will not be able to serve for a given season (summer or winter).

1. One-year or two-year gap in service: Online Training must be completed in the returning year, and the gap years “count” towards the In-Person Training requirement. No application interview required. Volunteer will not be able to schedule patrols, and no BLRA parking pass will be issued.

For example:

Joe attends In-Person Training in 2022. He notifies IPWA that he wants to take 2024 and 2025 as gap years, and returns to active service in 2026. He will need to attend In-Person Training in 2027.

2. 3+ years gap in service: Volunteer must reapply and complete all New Volunteer requirements, including application interview. (NOTE: Interview may be waived by Board; this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)

For example:

Sally attends In-Person Training in 2022. She notifies IPWA that she’s unable to serve due to back surgery and notifies IPWA that she wants to take 2023, 2024, and 2025 as gap years. To return to volunteering in 2026, she will need to re-apply and complete all New Volunteer requirements .

Less than 4 Service Activities Policy:

IPWA requests that each volunteer who registers and completes training requirements complete 4 public-facing Service Activities during the calendar year. This refreshes and reinforces the information gained during training and helps ensure our Volunteers are practiced

and up-to-date. We understand that this can be challenging some years due to medical, family, or personal complications. We value our volunteers and do not enforce this request.

If, however, a registered volunteer completes zero service activities in a summer season, IPWA will contact the volunteer to determine the reason(s) and assess their interest in continuing their association with IPWA:

If the volunteer is interested in continuing:	A “gap in service” will be granted, up to 3 years. If the person then wishes to return after three gap years, they will need to re-apply and complete all New Volunteer training requirements.
If the volunteer is NOT interested in continuing	IPWA will consider Volunteer to be retired, and will initiate uniform return process.
If the volunteer does not respond after two attempts have been made to contact them (email, text, and/or phone messages)	IPWA will consider Volunteer to be retired, and will initiate uniform return process.

Winter Patrols: Less than 4 winter patrols policy

Winter Patrol coordinators will contact the volunteer(s) to determine reason for not patrolling. A lack of response will be considered grounds for asking a volunteer to resign from Winter patrol duties.