

A MESSAGE TO ALL FORTY-SIXERS

Those familiar with the Adirondack Forty-Sixers know that we have a long history steeped in tradition and dedicated not only to hiking and the bonds formed on the trail, but also to education, conservation, and a deep respect for the mountains which we hold so dear. As interest in our organization grows, and numbers of hikers swell in the high peaks, we feel it important to publicly reiterate our mission, goals, and perhaps most importantly, the standard of behavior which we expect of our members, particularly when representing the 46rs on the trail.

Recent events, including large finish celebrations on summits, graffiti in the high peaks, and a handful of hikers who feel that the 46R designation somehow exempts them from rules and regulations in the high peaks, prompt us to write to reiterate our values as a group.

Our mission statement clearly states: “As volunteers we are dedicated to environmental protection, to education for proper usage of wilderness areas, to participation in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-approved trail projects, and to the support of initiatives within the Adirondack High Peaks region by organizations with similar goals that enhance our objectives.”

Further, our by-laws specifically indicate the kind of behavior expected of club members. Members are expected to:

- 1) Place safety first and foremost. This includes their own safety, that of members in their party, and especially that of children and others dependent upon them, and that of other hikers on the trail.
- 2) Obey official rules and laws, comply with DEC regulations and announcements, and respect the rights of private property owners.
- 3) Follow the principles of Carry In/Carry Out, Walk Softly, and Leave No Trace.
- 4) Neither damage nor deface the natural environment or objects of historical importance.

A failure to abide by these responsibilities may lead to the loss of membership through action of the Executive Committee.

Becoming a Forty-Sixer is an honor; being a Forty-Sixer is a privilege. With membership comes responsibility; to set an example for others on the trail; to be a thoughtful steward and to give back to the mountains. We do not condone, nor will we tolerate, inconsiderate and irresponsible behavior among our membership.

As our founding matriarch, Grace Hudowalski 46R #9, had said, "It doesn't matter if you make it to the top or not, but how you make the climb." As an organization, the Forty-Sixers encourage all who climb to be safe, responsible, and considerate of your fellow hikers.