

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Marijuana and Alcohol on Volunteer Projects

Because safety is PCTA's top priority, we are concerned about the potential for any type of drug, alcohol, or medicine to affect a volunteer's capacities.

Alcohol: PCTA does not provide alcohol on projects. If a volunteer decides to bring and consume alcohol, they need to do so in moderation and outside the designated work hours. Volunteers will be dismissed from a project if the crew leader feels a volunteer is abusing alcohol. Some PCT projects are led by corps crew partner organizations. While serving with these crews, alcohol is NOT allowed in camp. It is important to know that these corps programs are drug and alcohol-free and PCTA expects volunteers to respect these policies.

Marijuana: Possession or use of marijuana is prohibited at all times on PCTA volunteer projects. Although certain states have legalized the medical and/or recreational use of marijuana, it remains illegal to possess marijuana on all federal lands -- even within states that allow it; and the federal government can prosecute people who are otherwise protected under state laws. All PCT projects are under federal jurisdiction because the PCT is a federally designated and managed resource. Where the PCT crosses private or state lands, it does so upon federally-owned easements. Further, the agreements that provide funding and insurance coverage for PCTA volunteer programs are federal agreements. Therefore PCTA must abide by federal laws on all volunteer projects. Volunteers will be dismissed from a project if using marijuana.