



Volunteer Job Description

Trail Information Data Collector



Seeking one or more hikers to **photograph and collect data about trailhead parking lots and water sources** along lengthy sections of the PCT, hundreds of miles or more. People who are thru-hiking the PCT in 2026 are great candidates for this project as they will be able to visit many data collection locations, and section hikers are also encouraged to apply.

PCTA is in the process of publishing a robust database of information about the Pacific Crest Trail. The majority of these data and photos will be published to PCTA's website for the benefit of the public, though some may only end up in our manager's dataset.

Duties/requirements

- Take a series of photos at PCT trailheads and water source locations
- Evaluate the areas around trailheads and water source locations
- Fill in attributes and comments about trailhead and water facilities
- Work within PCTA GIS app system
- Participate in trail information / GIS training
- Post-trip, help ensure collected data is captured correctly in PCTA's GIS system and be available for discussions with PCTA staff
- Sign the agreement for PCTA's Photography Terms of Use (see below)

Time commitment

- Pre-trip training and coordination – 4 hours
- During the snow-free portion of 2026, gather data on hundreds of trailheads and water sources. We anticipate that each data collection spot could take up to five minutes to photograph.
- Post-trip coordination and discussion – 4 hours

Qualifications:

- Able to travel and work independently and visit hundreds of trailheads and water sources
- Own a compatible personal smartphone, willing to load with the relevant apps
- Comfortable with data collection on smartphone
- Prompt communicator by email and phone

PCTA staff supervisors

- Galen Keily, GIS Specialist
 - Gkeily@pcta.org, (530) 276-8995
- Jack Haskel, Trail Information Manager
 - Jhaskel@pcta.org, (916) 285-1845

How to get involved

1. Email staff supervisors expressing your interest, include a short note about your PCT plans in 2026 and attach a sample of some photography that is relevant to this project. We suggest going out in your town and taking some photos of a parking lot. What would you show? What information is important to convey through these photos?
2. Complete [PCTA's volunteer application](#), select "Trail Data" and enter Trail Information.

Photography Terms of Use

Photos/video uploaded are considered licensed to the Pacific Crest Trail Association in perpetuity. By submitting photos/video you are giving the PCTA the right to use your photos/video as we see fit to promote the trail and its protection.

You will retain copyright to any photograph/video you submit. You only grant the PCTA rights to your photograph/video royalty-free, in perpetuity, nonexclusively to:

- Reproduce, distribute, transform, display and/or to perform your photographs/video in all print and electronic mediums at any size
- Use your photos/video worldwide
- Provide your photograph/video to other individuals and organizations for non-commercial use, such as in news stories, newsletters, reports, slide shows, displays, web pages, and the like
- Archive in electronic forms so that your photos/video can be used to support our mission
- Use your photo/video for Commercial and Editorial uses that directly benefit the PCTA and the trail. Whenever possible, PCTA will consult with photographers/videographers about outside uses.

PCTA may alter your original photograph/video, when appropriate, to better suit the specific marketing or communications need. Such alterations may include:

- Minor adjustments in exposure, contrast, highlights, shadows, and vibrance
- Conversion to black-and-white
- Cropping to alter size
- Adjustments in opacity or monotone/duotone treatment for background applications
- Placement of text and/or logos over photo/video

Whenever possible, PCTA will provide attribution in the form of the photographer/videographer's name and/or photographer/videographer's website URL per PCTA's discretion. Attribution will appear next to the photo/video or in the credits of the work product.

Volunteer photographers/videographers agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the PCTA, its respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives, from any and all third party liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the photo assignment (collectively, "Losses"), including without limitation any third party claim for copyright infringement or a violation of an individual's right to privacy and/or publicity right.

Volunteer photographers/videographers are responsible for ensuring that he or she has the right to submit the photos/videos that he or she submits to the PCTA.