



The Continental Divide Trail Coalition *Gateway Ambassador Program*



What is it?

CDTC aims to increase local access to the Trail by engaging a volunteer Gateway Community Ambassador in each CDT Gateway Community. Our Gateway Community Ambassador program empowers Ambassadors to become outdoor leaders in their communities. Gateway Community Ambassadors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their local segment of the CDT, to provide knowledge of the Trail to their neighbors and friends, and are supported by CDTC to increase their capacity as outdoor leaders. By introducing folks living along the Trail to the CDT, the program helps to grow the community of people engaged in stewardship of the Trail. Our goal is to create an program that increases inclusivity, diversity and access to the CDT. Participants who are excited about the opportunity to explore the CDT and are willing to share their story with their peers and communities through social media and community events are encouraged to apply.



Who are we looking for?

- We're looking for individuals or teams of two from all backgrounds and skill levels who are passionate about trails, public lands, and community engagement and want to spend time on the CDT.
- Applicants must live in one of the CDT Gateway Communities.
- Applicants must be 18 years or older.
- Must be willing to share their experience with their community and on social media, and must have at least one of the following: Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

What does a CDT Community Ambassador do?

- Explore the CDT- hike, bike, or ride sections of the CDT near your home.
- Work to increase knowledge of the CDT and familiarity with the Trail in their local community.
- Host a total of 3 CDT events a year - at least two of which must be on the trail. Events can range from a group community hike to a presentation about the CDT in the library to a CDTC Happy Hour at a local brewery - we encourage GC Ambassadors to be creative and respond to the needs of their community!
- Provide a recap for each CDT event they host. This will be done through an online form.
- Provide photos and/or video from each event.

What's in it for YOU?

CDTC will support Gateway Community Ambassadors by helping lower barriers to recreation on the CDT for local community members. Want to increase your capacity to go outside and bring others with you? Gateway Community Ambassadors can apply for grants from CDTC to learn outdoor skills through classes or other training opportunities (for example, hiking, backpacking, or Wilderness First Aid courses). CDTC will also help contribute to the success of events organized by GC Ambassadors through other contributions (food, gear, etc.). Gateway Community Ambassadors should openly communicate with CDTC as to what they need to make their Ambassadorship successful.

If you love being outdoors with others and you are interested in becoming a CDTC Gateway Community Ambassador, please fill out an interest form online. If you have questions about the program, contact Andrea Kurth, akurth@continentaldividetrail.org.