

Trail Boss Program

The GLAAC-High Adventure Team and the USDA-Forest Service (USDA-FS) developed Trail Boss in the early 1970's. Its purpose is to train adults in the techniques of trail construction and maintenance that meet USDA-FS standards. When fully trained and certified, these persons are permitted to supervise a crew of volunteers doing approved trail and other conservation projects in the Angeles National Forest. Most conservation work done there is on this basis.

The training consists of Saturday field exercises. Participants may begin at any time and proceed through it to the convenience of their own schedule. Upon completing it (usually three Saturdays), the adult must supervise a 6- hour and a 12-hour project under the guidance of a USDA- FS or GLAAC-HAT trainer. Satisfactory performance earns him/her certification as a Trail Boss. The person may now supervise his/her own or another Unit in performing USDA- FS-approved projects in the Angeles National Forest. This makes it easier for its members to do conservation work for advancement (including Eagle projects) and to earn some of the numerous High Adventure awards that require it.



Trail Boss training is routinely scheduled to be conducted on the first Saturday in May and September. Trail Boss personnel also support the public events, California Trails Day and National Trails Day. All dates are subject to change by the USDA-FS.

For additional information about this Program and for the location where training will be held, contact one of the following:

- USDA-Forest Service, LA River Ranger District: 818-899-1900, www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles
- Dave Ledford: 310-373-2111; gdledford@verizon.net

Because of the cutbacks in Federal funding and the damage caused by fire and weather in recent years, the need for Trail Bosses has never been greater. Become one of the Scouters who have supervised their Units in performing over 250,000 hours of trail work during the last 35 years. You, your boys, and the community will be better for it.

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