3:30am in the morning comes early to anyone, anyone besides a Trekker.

At 3:30am, my team and I got up and ready to hike the Continental Divide at Independence Pass, and the experience was like no other. Getting off the bus just before dawn and seeing the high peaks of the mountains through the bleak darkness made me not even mind how hard I was shivering, or that it was 30° out, or that the air was thinner than paper.

The hike up the mountain was rigorous, but overcoming the incline, temps, and air made getting to the top so rewarding. While hiking up, Hannah instructed us to pick up two rocks, large or small, it didn’t matter. We finally made it to a small plateau where the land was flat and the grass was yellow and sharp, and in the distance we could see snow. Feeling as energized as ever, Mike and I ran over and made snowballs from the hard packed snow and sneakily shoved them in our pockets. As our groggy group sat down to journal, we broke out the snowballs, and in the middle of July we had a snowball fight. While this was not appreciated by most, it jump-started the day for us Trekkers while most others would be sleeping.

We all settled down to journal and found places vastly spread out along the plateau to sit. Looking around at what seemed like a million mountain peaks covered with white icy snow seemed unreal, almost like I hadn’t woken up that morning, and I was just dreaming about the fantastic views and the hike. After taking in some much needed mountain air, we were soon called together and then the rocks finally came into play.

Their purpose was to signify something we were taking back home to the east, and something we were going to rid ourselves of to stay in the west.

To the east I threw positivity and eagerness to try everything, and to the west I threw the insecurity and negativity that no longer served me.

And to this day, the positivity and eagerness are in the east, at home with me; and the negativity and insecurity are far away in the west, where they continue to stay.
Recently, Trekkers and the St. George community lost a dear friend. Jenifer Mumford, artist and former Trustee, was instrumental in the evolution of Trekkers. Jen joined the Board of Directors in 2003, a period of growth when Jenifer’s contacts locally and beyond – whether potential donors, places to sleep or camp or educational resources – played a major role in Trekkers development.

At the time, Jen and her husband, David, split their time between Tenants Harbor and Boston. She loved young people (of all ages!) and looked forward to hosting home-cooked dinners for Trekkers students, staff and prospective supporters during Boston excursions and in her Tenants Harbor home. “Jennifer was a learner and a doer”, said Amie Hutchison, Trekkers Executive Director. Long after leaving the Board and even during her time of declining health, Jennifer was instrumental in the success of two art fundraisers, nudging other artists to participate and contributing her own sought-after creations.

Jen found inspiration for her paintings in the gardens and fields of Maine. She began exhibiting at the Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland in 1995 and did so for the next twenty-two years. Her long-standing interest in nature, landscape, and the workings of biology was often the subject of her beautiful paintings. Before becoming a full-time artist, she taught art at the Advent School in Boston and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School in New Jersey.

Several years ago, Jen and David moved year-round to Fox Farm, their home in Tenants Harbor, where they were welcomed by local friends. Jen had a wonderful ability to connect with people from all walks of life. The door to her house was always open, and the living room a base camp for Trekkers staff, friends, and the couple’s large, merged families. Affectionate, funny, generous, honest, a tremendous life force, Jen will be missed deeply by those of us who had the good fortune to know her.

Former Trekkers Trustee, Thomas “Tommy” Armitage, died this past June. Tommy moved to St. George in 1985 and began working at Harbor Builders Associates, where he became a partner in 1996. Tommy was proud of the work the company did and the fact that it was able to provide good jobs to so many employees. He prized building authentic relationships and frequently became friends with his clients.

Concurrent with developing a professional niche, Tommy became involved with the St. George community and Trekkers. He was a first responder on the St. George Rescue Squad and a Trekkers volunteer and later, twice in fact, a member of the Trekkers Board of Directors. Being involved with Trekkers was a perfect fit for his generous spirit, love of hiking, all things outdoors and people of all ages and backgrounds. He participated in numerous expeditions and used his carpentry skills to retrofit 2 Trekkers buses to meet the needs of students and adults spending up to 12 days on the road together. Tommy enjoyed biking and was instrumental in organizing Trekkers Pedal to the Port event where he participated as a volunteer and rider. When he became ill and required chemotherapy, Tommy became involved with the Dempsey Challenge, becoming a top fundraiser as well as a rider.

“Tom was a great communicator,” said his wife, Laura, “who had a wonderful knack for capturing experiences in words.” This excerpt reflects Tommy’s pragmatism and wisdom, “This struggle has taught me humility and surrender which can be a comfort when you are backed into a corner. One doesn’t always have to show strength and fortitude through the dark times; sometimes the hurt has to be nurtured. I have learned that my bravado was just covering up my fear and I feel more prepared now to face the coming stages boldly and honestly.”

Tommy is survived by his wife, Laura, 2 sons and a stepson, their spouses and partners and two grandchildren as well as the Trekkers community and numerous friends.
When I accepted the position of Volunteer and Administrative Coordinator at Trekkers, I was excited to dive deeper into volunteer management and strengthen my skills in administration. What I didn’t expect was the amazing organizational culture! The positive attitudes and open relationships were an unexpected bonus that came along with my new position and it was on my first overnight trip that I really felt lucky to be part of the Trekkers’ experience!

On a cool Friday afternoon, back in November, I hopped onto the Trekkers bus for the very first time to join Team Osprey for an overnight trip! I was a little nervous, but extremely excited. Once all packed, we hit the road heading down to Kittery Point for the weekend. The bus quickly became filled with laughter and games, with only one quick pit stop to go food shopping for the weekend. Once we arrived at our destination, we began to settle in, unrolling sleeping bags and mats before sharing in a delicious pizza tortilla dinner! After dinner, we played a few games and completed a journaling activity. The whole team contributed to a positive and open atmosphere, which made me feel comfortable in sharing my own personal thoughts.

Saturday morning, we woke up bright and early and jumped back on the bus! First stop was Holy Donut in Scarborough and holy cow, does this bakery have donuts! Their flavors seem endless – maple, pomegranate, toasted coconut, triple berry glaze, cinnamon sugar, coffee cake… and the list goes on! I happily devoured a dark chocolate donut covered in sea salt! After this delicious sugar fix, we hopped back on the bus and made our way to Northeast Passage in Durham, New Hampshire. Northeast Passage works to create an environment where individuals with disabilities can recreate barrier-free through adaptive sports. We had the chance to tour their facilities, see all their adaptive equipment, and watch an inspiring video. We were then invited to watch part of a power soccer practice and a wheelchair rugby game on the UNH campus. This was a great experience and I was thrilled to see Team Osprey taking full advantage of the opportunity to speak directly to the individuals Northeast Passage empowers. After a big thanks to our tour guides, we headed back to Maine! We had a blast bowling and hit the arcade in Portland - it was the perfect time to connect with the team and have lots of fun! Finally, after the day’s adventures, we headed back to the church and the cook crew of the night made a big helping of mac and cheese (my favorite!). We continued to bond after dinner, as we played more games and we learned about the consensus decision-making process.

It was in this process that Team Osprey truly impressed me. They were open, honest and respectful, listening to each other’s ideas and working together to make a group decision.

Sunday morning, our final day of the trip, we woke up early, started packing, cleaned our accommodations, and hit the road! On the drive back, we played a ton of games, jammed to some classic songs, and had high spirits even though it was our final day! It was an incredible weekend! Osprey is ready for new challenges, has a strong willingness to learn, and is very open to all parts of an expedition. They challenge me to be a strong role model and embrace every aspect of a new adventure. I know that they will treat me to a ton of laughs and good times on our next expedition trip and I can’t wait!
First, tell us a little about yourself. Where do you go to school, what Trekkers class were you a part of? What are you currently most excited about in life?

My name is Laken Fournier and I am 19 years old. I go to Pace University in Manhattan, New York and graduated from Trekkers Team Chimera in 2016. At the end of January 2018, I headed to Ghana to study abroad for a semester – I'll actually be able to do an internship through my program, as well as a field study and regular class schedule. I'll have the opportunity to travel through West Africa too, so I may not spend all four months in Ghana. I may actually be going to Nigeria for a bit with a classmate of mine.

What are you most excited about when thinking about your semester in Ghana? What made you choose Ghana?

I think the thing that made me choose Ghana was that one of my professors did her PhD there and was really passionate when talking about it, and explained that so many people have stereotypes when talking about Africa as a whole. I wanted to see for myself and be honest in getting the stereotypes we all grow up with out of my own head, and then share that with people when I return.

I'm really excited to meet the people there. There will be a lot of international students. We can see the country and learn traditional food and I'm so excited for all of that.

You've been a Trekker student and a member of the Student Leadership Program. Looking back now as an alumna, can you try to describe how Trekkers has influenced you to be who you are today?

I think the thing about Trekkers is that I used to be a homebody before I joined. When I first went to the 7th grade meeting with my dad, the idea of whitewater rafting was the coolest possible thing you could do in your life. I just wanted to go and travel and do all of these things. It is part of what has made me want to experience different things and go to different places. The way we lived on Trekkers trips – living out of a bus, sleeping on the floor, not showering often – has prepared me for exploring places where living styles may be completely different than my own. Or being open to living in a place where I am out of my comfort zone, living without the same luxuries I have here, like a hot shower.

I didn't really know anyone when I joined Trekkers because a lot of students were from Thomaston and Rockland, and I was just coming out of the St. George school system. It was really interesting to be without my phone and have to actually talk to people. I don't think I've ever been shy, but I didn't always know what to do with myself. I think the ability to meet different people and those who I may not at first had seen myself necessarily being friends with, has definitely been something that has helped; just being able to sit down and have a conversation with different people. I think this will help me in Ghana, a culture where people really want to talk to you and integrate you into their culture.

What is one of the funniest thing that happened in Trekkers for you? What's the most unforgettable thing?

When Emily Carver (my program manager) straight-up roasted us at graduation. She told everyone how I fell on my face all the time, and yes, she was correct. I literally still do it too. I fall all the time, just on the icy inner city street – I was walking past a huge group of people and just fell flat out on my back with all my stuff going everywhere. Emily gave me a hat at graduation that had written in graffiti, “Graceless.” I still have that hat.

Laken is also writing a blog for her travels in Ghana and West Africa, which you can follow here: https://lakenf.wixsite.com/laken-crosses-oceans
I have known Katie Jacob since my first year in Trekkers (2013-2014). She was a student leader in ‘red group’. I was an extremely shy person in seventh grade so I did not talk a lot in my group. This past summer Katie was a leader on my 10th grade trip to Colorado. With 10 days out in the Rocky Mountain region, there was significantly more time to get to know everyone. Katie mentioned her work with AmeriCorps and the rest of her travels. I learned all about AmeriCorps NCCC and how it benefited her. Her decision to join AmeriCorps showed me how there are many options that I could pursue after high school. I could also hear Katie’s love for the outdoors on the trip, and I aspire to have the same attitude towards the wilderness. I am so glad I could get to know Katie on my trip and it was from conversations with her that I got some clarity on what I want to do after high school.

Katie, what do you like best about being a mentor? My favorite thing about being a mentor is being a part of a student’s new experiences. As students travel with Trekkers, going to places like Acadia National Park or the Rocky Mountain region for the first time, they are inspired and ‘fired-up’ about life. I love seeing students grow and classes bond over their six years of Trekkers experiences.

What is one moment on a Trekkers trip where you thought, “this is where I am supposed to be.” After being away from the Trekkers culture for a while, I was fortunate enough to facilitate one of the teams on the last 7th grade trip! Here is a secret, I am not a fan of canoeing, at all! So, as we headed out to canoe on one of the afternoons, I was secretly a little apathetic, but there was a moment when we all rafted up to enjoy classic Trekker’s gorp. Being all together with these incredible leaders and students, just soaking up sunshine, laughing and telling riddles, definitely stands out as one of those moments I thought - this is where I am supposed to be, even in a canoe.

Can you describe your funniest memory as a Trekkers volunteer? I have had so many of these stomach-hurting, tears-flowing, kind of laughs on Trekkers trips! One of the memories that stands out to me is on Team Allagash’s 10th grade trip, when we were on the bus on our way back after an encounter with a mountain lion. The whole bus was making jokes and imitating a character of this mountain lion. There were definitely tears with that laughter.

How did your experience from Trekkers shape your path after graduating high school? Similar to you, Amanda, I was extremely shy in 7th Grade. It was over the course of my six years in Trekkers that I grew a lot. Trekkers definitely expanded my horizons, probably provoked my passion to travel, and through the relationships I made with the mentors and teammates on my trips, built my confidence. On my path, I have been able to follow what has felt right to me based on having confidence and understanding of myself. I do not think that would have been true if it wasn’t for my time in Trekkers.

What made you decide to return to Trekkers through AmeriCorps? My first AmeriCorps term was in AmeriCorps NCCC as a member in the Pacific Region. I really enjoyed traveling to new communities every few weeks for a new project. When I was ready to return home with a greater experience and skills, I wanted to serve the community that has given me so much. Trekkers is a huge part of what makes me love home. Spending a year helping Trekkers grow and make a greater impact in Maine has been the perfect opportunity.
**MEET WILL MORRISON, TREKKERS’ VOLUNTEER**

First, a bit about yourself: Where are you from? What are you passionate about?

I’m from Belfast. I went to high school on Islesboro. College in Florida, then UMaine. I studied mechanical engineering. I am an entrepreneur. I’ve never had a “real job” as I enjoy month-long vacations and taking a few weeks to volunteer for Trekkers trips, or help a friend with a project. I like being available, and real jobs prevent that. I’m passionate about delayed gratification, bettering myself and others through education, experiences, projects and seeking to understand the world. I like to push myself to do my best. I like to analyze everything and reflect on the things I could work on. I like to dream both at night and during the day. Dream about doing great things with my life. Dream over the top with my dad about life goals, being rich, being poor, being famous, hot rods and driving around the country in his 1940 Oldsmobile repowered with a 500hp Cummins diesel, towing a speedboat that will cruise at unmentionable speeds and not a care in the world, windows down, arm hanging out and the sun shining, blue sky. I like laughing until I pee my pants. I enjoy visualizing success and failures and other possible scenarios. I like crunching numbers about investments and fuel mileage. I like looking at old pictures of my friends and reminiscing. I like to cry sometimes about how lucky I am. How fortunate I’ve been. About the brain I was given. I like to spend time with old people, as they are wise - and I want someone to spend time with me when I’m old. I like to operate vehicles and tools. I like to push it to the limit. I like watching wood burn and feeling the warmth even better. I like to hug. The list goes on, but that gives you an idea of what I’m passionate about.

How did you hear about Trekkers? What was your first Trekkers experience like?

I was looking for a room at UMaine and a friend had an apartment with two others. When I met them, I looked ‘em straight in the eyes and said, “I know you don’t know me, but if you give me a chance, I can guarantee I’m one of the most stand-up guys you will ever meet.” Those two were Trekkers alums Elias Edwards-Jenks and Ned Rich. We quickly became friends. I later met Molly Hoyt, another Trekker, who my best friend would later marry. Over the years, I had some brief encounters with Trekkers, like the time I peddled to the port without entering, and Don caught me helping myself to the post-ride breakfast. Margaret Hoyt recommended I volunteer and I quickly found myself on a 7th grade trip. I was hooked when I saw students step outside their comfort zone. It’s the thing that keeps me coming back. Seeing that growth brings me strong feelings about being a part of something that directly and positively impacts the futures of these young individuals.

What do you like best about being a mentor? Is it fair to say you’ve caught the ‘Trekkers Bug’?

When someone opens up and lets you know what’s on their mind. It feels so nice to have someone confide in you, or the group, looking for advice. I feel so privileged that someone has recognized me or the team as trustworthy and worthy of discussing some uncomfortable feelings. This opening up is so powerful to witness, and I imagine it’s powerful for the other students too. I get a feeling that I’m making a difference in my community and the world around me, by supporting an organization like this. I’ve certainly caught the ‘Trekkers Bug’.

What’s one favorite memory you have from being a Trekkers volunteer?

I have so many. I have to say that there was a talk I had with a group of 11th graders on a trip. It was in the middle of the night, outside in the cold. There was so much passion, differing opinions and ethical dilemmas being debated, but I was so impressed how everyone respected each other, taking turns to speak, fully commenting on what was said. It was awesome to witness the regard for others.

What advice do you have for someone considering volunteering as a mentor for the first time?

I have so many. I have to say that there was a talk I had with a group of 11th graders on a trip. It was in the middle of the night, outside in the cold. There was so much passion, differing opinions and ethical dilemmas being debated, but I was so impressed how everyone respected each other, taking turns to speak, fully commenting on what was said. It was awesome to witness the regard for others.

It’s one of the most rewarding things I have ever done, and I enjoy most anything I do.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: EXTENDING TREKKERS’ IMPACT by MEREDITH LYNT, Director of Trekkers Training Institute

For nearly a quarter of a century, Trekkers’ award-winning youth development model has positively impacted hundreds of students growing up in the small fishing communities of mid-coast Maine. Trekkers’ students graduate high school and pursue post-secondary education at a rate 17% higher than their same high school peers and 15% higher than their state of Maine peers. Trekkers’ students also pursue post-secondary education at a rate 17% higher than their same high school peers and 13% higher than their peers across the state. Over the course of our nearly 25 years, Trekkers has graduated hundreds of students from the program, many of whom return to support the organization as volunteers, board members or donors. Trekkers programs have been proven to strengthen resiliency in youth, build aspirations and increase connections between young people and their community.

Despite our well-documented benefits, Trekkers can only reach a maximum of 240 students a year from our current six-town territory. Middle and high school students from beyond the greater Rockland area either lack access to any type of mentoring program or the available programs are not based on the principles that have proven so successful for Trekkers. Generally, many out-of-school-time programs struggle with how to recruit and retain older youth, and continue to look for guidance on how to do so more effectively. In response, we’ve identified 10 underlying principles that set Trekkers apart from other programs, and are collectively responsible for the profound impact Trekkers has had on the lives of young people. The Trekkers Training Institute (TTI) has been developed as a way to replicate the same successful outcomes that Trekkers has realized over the last 25 years without impacting our commitment to providing the same high-quality, direct programming to our six-town service area.

TTI provides a strategic and exciting way to expand Trekkers’ reach by training individuals, organizations and communities in Trekkers 10 Youth Programming Principles with a non-prescriptive approach that allows youth development and community leaders to adapt the philosophy of Trekkers in a way that best reflects and leverages the inherent gifts of their staff, their young people and their community. The long-term goal of TTI is to replicate the outcomes of Trekkers for students across Maine and beyond.

TTI piloted a three-month training program this summer with youth development leaders from eight different organizations across the state of Maine. Participants were selected by the Emanuel & Pauline A. Lerner Foundation’s Aspiration Incubator Program, a mentoring-based initiative aimed at raising and sustaining the aspirations of middle school and high school students in rural Maine communities and small cities. Participants included Chewonki Foundation, Community Bicycle Center, The EdGE Program of Maine Seacoast Mission, Game Loft, Kieve-Wavus Education, Old Town-Orono YMCA & RSU #34, Seeds of Independence, and the University of Maine 4-H Center at Bryant Pond. A robust evaluation of the pilot training program was completed by The Data Innovation Project and the results indicate that participants experienced significant professional growth as a result of their experience with TTI.

Building on the success of the summer pilot, TTI is currently designing new, open enrollment training programs and a consulting capacity for any community leader interested in learning about Trekkers 10 Youth Programming Principles.

If you are interested in learning more or have questions or ideas, please don’t hesitate to reach out as we take this exciting and historic next step in Trekkers history: meredith@trekkers.org.

TREKKERS TEN YOUTH PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES

1. Designing Intentional Program Delivery Systems for Long Term Engagement
2. Developing a Skilled Network of Caring Adults and Peer Mentors
3. Applying a Comprehensive Approach to Youth Development Strategies
4. Creating a Community Support Network
5. Prioritizing Informal Relationship Building with Youth
6. Expanding Worldviews
7. Embracing Student Voice & Choice
8. Encouraging Civic Responsibility
9. Preparing Students for Success after High School
10. Utilizing Validated Assessment Tools to Promote Social-Emotional Development in young people
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Trekkers is deeply grateful for your generosity and support. Did you know that only 15% of our operating budget is generated from student dues? We are committed to never turning a student away for financial reasons and intentionally keep our dues low to foster inclusivity. As a result, we must raise 85% of our operating budget, or $466,000 in 2017, to fund our unique, outdoor-based, youth-mentoring program. Trekkers wouldn’t exist without YOUR support. Thank you for helping us raise aspirations and make a difference in the lives of our students and their families.

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Julie Wortman and Anne Cox
Richard and Beatrice Wright
Alec Young
Betty Yovino
Margaret Zullinger

We’re only human. We strive for accuracy in our acknowledgements but inaccuracies do occur. Please accept our apology and let us know if we have omitted or inaccurately attributed your gift.

This list reflects gifts made between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017
Over the last two years, I’ve participated in a peripheral program that I never participated in during my tenure as a Trekkers student. That is our From the ‘Hood to the Woods program. As a student, I didn’t understand why I would want to spend five days in my hometown with a bunch of kids from New Jersey that I didn’t know. Recently, never signing up has become my biggest regret from my Trekkers experience and being able to participate as a Program Manager has become one of my biggest joys.

The cultural exchange program between Trekkers and Urban Trekkers was started in 2006 by Don Carpenter and Jim Cummings, or Mr. C, and 2016 would be the last year that the two would run the program together. I worried that without their relationship and ability to lead this type of program that it would fall by the wayside, and the relationship between the two organizations would follow. However, seeing the powerful and inspiring conversations that occurred between students from inner-city New Jersey and rural Maine made us all realize with certainty that we need to at least try to keep this going.

This past fall, From the ‘Hood to the Woods took place again, this time under new leadership of Kris Schenpf from Urban Trekkers and shared roles from the Trekkers program team. It continued with regular traditions of getting on a lobster boat to catch lobster for the big bake at Blueberry Cove and taking a trip out to Monhegan to hike alongside incredible ocean views. The heart of the program never missed a beat, and students were in the thick of conversations about race and gender equality, stereotypes and prejudices, and what they defined as fair and unfair.

While having the space for these conversations is important, what’s even more important, was the way students were having them. Students would say where they were coming from with passionate reasons to back them up and then instantly make the switch to being open to someone else’s perspective. Hearing it and taking it in with no need for a defensive rebuttal. They were not denying that there were differences between the individuals in the room but rather recognizing the differences, accepting them and then commending them. And using the differences not to build a wall between one side and the other, but to build a bridge between the two.

I left the five days feeling inspired. Inspired to being truly open to others and celebrating our differences. Inspired to bring more diversity to Midcoast Maine and to bring kids from Midcoast Maine to more diversity. I’m proud to say that our relationship with Urban Trekkers has only expanded, rather than fallen away, in the last couple of years. I am inspired to continue giving students a platform for their voice and a space where they will be truly heard. While I applaud Don and Mr. C for their vision with this program, in hindsight, it was silly for me to worry that From the ‘Hood to the Woods would no longer continue without them.

The power of this program, and all programs at Trekkers, does not come from who is leading them but rather from the young people who are given a platform for their voice and the support to act on it. And with that empowerment they are choosing to have passionate conversations as a way to build meaningful relationships. It leaves me in awe and with great hope for the future.
**TREKKERS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Biography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryson Cowan King</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Manager</td>
<td>Born and raised in Tenants Harbor, Bryson graduated from Trekkers and Georges Valley in 2008. She then attended Connecticut College, where she earned a dual degree in Government and Economic &amp; Environmental Analysis. Since graduating, she has worked in nonprofit fundraising. She is thrilled to be a part of an organization that shaped her as a person and continues to inspire her.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tori Willauer</td>
<td>Director of Sailing</td>
<td>Tori is an experienced facilitator, climber and wilderness instructor. She has extensive coastal and offshore sailing experience and is a member of the Cruising Club of America (CCA) and the Ocean Cruising Club (OCC). She has more than 25 years in the field working with groups at sea and on land. Tori's emphasis is providing specific strategic learning-based initiatives to drive innovative and successful leadership for youth and professionals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Rolerson</td>
<td>Dream Local Digital Director of Client Services &amp; Sales Support</td>
<td>I participated in the Trekkers program from 2003-2008, served as a student leader and participated in the Big Trek Little Trek program. I feel so fortunate to have gotten involved with Trekkers in a leadership role again and experience the energy the group provides. I am looking forward to bringing my passion and experience to the Trekkers board of directors to help the organization continue to flourish, and I am excited to share the Trekkers culture and represent an organization that has given so much to me.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Meil</td>
<td>Policy Advocate</td>
<td>Kathleen Meil's passion for lifelong learning and sustainability grew from her background in education, science, and community development. She began her career as an educator, earning an M.Ed. in Elementary Education and teaching kindergarten through fifth grade in public and independent schools for nearly a decade, and brings a teacher's perspective to her work in Maine's clean energy economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Megna</td>
<td>Community Member/Retired Reinsurance Company Executive</td>
<td>During my teens, I attended camp in Maine and like so many others, I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent there. Canoeing up the Allagash and hiking on Mt. Katahdin with my peers was such a valuable learning experience. I'm pleased that I discovered the Trekkers organization. It has the wonderful combination of bringing back cherished memories and of bringing forward the exceptional programs that have been developed for young people in the local community and beyond.</td>
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TREKKERS’ MISSION

Trekkers is a non-profit, outdoor-based mentoring program that connects young people with caring adults through expeditionary learning, community service and adventure-based education. Our goal is to be a part of students’ lives from grade to grade and year to year.

UPCOMING EVENTS & EXPEDITIONS

February 16-25: Urban Expedition  
9th Grade Team Atlas  
9th Grade Team Beacon  

February 13–22: Cross America Disaster Relief Expedition  
10th Grade Team Everest  

March 13-17: Rites of Passage  
10th Grade Team North Face  

March 15-19: Rites of Passage  
12th Grade Team North Patagonia  

April 13-22: College/Career Exploration  
11th Grade Team Allagash  
11th Grade Team Penobscot  

April 27: Trekkapalooza  

May 11-13: Teen Trekkers  
7th Grade Team Krakatoa  

May 18-20: Teen Trekkers  
7th Grade Team Vesuvius  
Flatbread Pizza Fundraiser  
Thomaston Trek Run/Walk  

June 3:  

June 18 – June 27: Advanced Trekkers  
8th Grade Team Albatross  

June 20-29: Advanced Trekkers  
8th Grade Team Osprey  

July 17–28: Cross America Expedition  
10th Grade Team K2  

July 19: Fired Up Foodie Event  

July (TBA): Art Auction  

DONATE TO TREKKERS ONLINE

Invest in Youth - Invest in our Future! You can easily donate online through our Donate page on www.trekkers.org. Options include our monthly giving program, one-time donations, in-kind gifts, planned giving, matching gifts, scholarship funds, stock gifts, workplace giving, donor advised funds and family foundations. Trekkers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the tax codes.