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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY'S SMOKIES WILDERNESS ELITE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CREW (S.W.E.A.T.) IS HEADED INTO THE WOODS WITH OPEN POSITIONS!

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (May 24, 2011) – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) Smokies Wilderness Elite Appalachian Trail Crew (S.W.E.A.T.) begins work in the Smokies on June 6th, and still has a few open positions for volunteers. The Trail crew is close to operating at 100% capacity for the first time in history! The ATC provides all of the food, tools, equipment and safety gear needed for volunteers to get into the Backcountry and complete some much needed work on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.).

A.T. Professional Trail crew leaders teach volunteers Trail construction techniques and lead the crew in building steps, drainage structures and beating back the seasonal vegetation that attacks the A.T. in the Smokies. Crew members live and work in the Backcountry of the Smokies for five days.

This spring's storm season has been tough on the A.T. and the S.W.E.A.T. Crew is looking for strong men and women to join in the rehabilitation of America's most popular trail.



Members of the S.W.E.A.T. Crew working on the Trail pose for a picture.



The S.W.E.A.T. Crew program is a great resume builder and an excellent way to gain a leg up for anyone interested in a job working in environmental conservation, with the Park Service or with the Forest Service. Volunteers from all across the nation come together with the S.W.E.A.T. Crew to give back to the A.T. and make lasting friendships.

To register or for more information, please contact Andrew Downs with the ATC at 828.254.3708 or adowns@appalachiantrail.org.

About the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. For more information please visit www.appalachiantrail.org.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please call Javier Folgar at 304.535.6331 x117 or e-mail jfolgar@appalachiantrail.org.