



CONGRATULATIONS, FOREST RANGERS

A DEC Forest Ranger instructs youngster in how to plant a tree on an eroding hillside in the Forest Preserve. Photo by Dave Gibson

Thirty-eight new DEC Forest Rangers are graduating this winter from the Forest Ranger Academy in the Adirondacks. The Forest Preserve's trails, forests, waterways and visitors need them badly. Congratulations to these graduates as they serve the public and our magnificent public lands and waters for decades to come.

The Issue:

Right now, on a statewide basis, just 125 Rangers and their supervisors search for us, rescue us, respond to emergencies, patrol, educate and inform us on four million acres of public land. The Governor's office has capped the force at 134 Rangers. In the year ahead, the new recruits will simply replace veterans who are retiring. There are no more men and women in green today than served fifty years ago, while protected lands have doubled in that time span. With half the acreage we have, Yellowstone National Park employs three times the number of Rangers than New York State employs. Furthermore, 75 % of the DEC Forest Rangers are white and male.

What You Can Do:

Our Forest Preserve urgently needs a larger, more diverse, educational Forest Ranger force to protect our wild lands and to educate and serve the public.

Ask Governor Kathy Hochul to double and diversify the Forest Rangers. Ask her to propose a state budget in January that doubles the number of DEC Forest Ranger positions from 125 to 250 and broadens the pool of candidates to diversify the force.

Call her at 518-474-8390, or write her at: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>.

WE CAN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU!

For a FREE copy of our report, *The Adirondack Park at a Crossroad: A Road Map for Action* or our guidebook, *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park: Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*, please visit our website, www.adirondackwild.org, and download them from the main menu under: Media/Publications.

While you're there, we also invite you to make a donation to become a member and to sign up for our award-winning eNewsletter, *Dialogue for the Wild*.



WE'RE ON THE WILD'S SIDE...

SAFEGUARDING THE WILD | EXTENDING THE WILD | EDUCATING FOR THE WILD

WWW.ADIRONDACKWILD.ORG

Founded 1945