

The A-Team Charter



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About Trash Free Trails

We exist to protect our trails and the wild places they take us.

Trash Free Trails is a community focused, not-for-profit organisation; a positive, inclusive call to arms for riders, runners and roamers alike. We exist to protect our trails and the wild places they take us to and we're starting with Single-Use Pollution - frequently known as 'litter'.

Terrestrial ecosystems are being choked by Single-Use Pollution (SUP). At the same time, we are witnessing first hand the social and emotional impacts that disconnection is having on the wellbeing of individuals, communities and wider society.

We believe that these two issues are bound together. It is our responsibility to find positive, purposeful, people powered solutions.

Our Mission

To (re)connect people with nature through the simple yet meaningful act of removing single-use pollution from wild places.



Time + Toil (TEA) = Trust

You are the A – TEAM; an incredible group of dedicated volunteers who have agreed to do that little bit more to protect your trails. Each of you will have your own way of doing this, and your own “why?” but know this: however, wherever, and whatever you do to engage, empower and enable your trail communities to become the happy, healthy environmental stewards we all yearn to be is how we will achieve our mission. In short, we need you!

But, we know this kind of thing doesn't just happen! So, we've developed this complex equation. Shared time, with hands in the dirt protecting what we love, followed by a few cups of tea will result in the trust we need to get us there. One dropped can, bottle or stinky old dog poo bag at a time.

We also know that you're donating the most precious of assets to our cause – your free time. We don't take that lightly and want to make sure that each and every minute, each and every hour, contributes to the sustained positive difference we strive to achieve. What follows will help us make sure we're able to do that.

This Charter outlines the role of an A-TEAMer as a key member of the TFT Ecosystem. You'll find information about the role, our organisational values, expectations and responsibilities, benefits and offerings, and a declaration we ask each of you to sign as part of your commitment to join the team.

If you have any questions get in touch with Rich on rich@trashfreetrails.org

Thank You.

TFT HQ



Our Values

We;

Are riders, runners and roamers. Everyone is welcome.

Respect our volunteers above all else. The fact that they have chosen to donate their time and talent to our cause is a huge honour and responsibility.

Are nature connectors and spark makers.

Are always positive and solution focused; we will NEVER use blame, shame, guilt or aggression as a tactic.

Believe that no single thing is 'responsible' for the single use pollution issue. It is a symptom of hugely complex, interconnected systems.

Celebrate every single volunteer act; however 'big' or 'small' it makes an incredible difference.

Commit to leaving a positive trace each time we visit our trails and wild places.

Encourage and empower people to DIO (DO IT OURSELVES!)

Together, we are Trash Free Trails.

These are our core values. Carefully curated with our mission at their heart, they are a product of collaboration between TFT HQ, The A-TEAM and The TrashMob. Constantly under review, they have been ratified for continued use.

We hope each of you identifies with these, and feels comfortable and confident to share them with their trail communities.



What You Can Expect From Us

You are the heart and soul of Trash Free Trails. In order to engage, enable and empower your trail communities to protect their trails and wild places, there are things you need from us. These expectations are what we pledge to you.

We will be transparent, clear, open and honest with all communications and across the organisation. Any questions? Please ask and we will answer to the best of our ability.

Integrity and Commitment. If we say we're going to do something, we'll do our best to make sure it happens. If for whatever reason it can't, YOU will be the first to know.

The A-TEAM will be notified of projects, events, activations and meetings at the earliest possible opportunity.

We are here to help you, and provide you with the physical, digital and practical resources you need to protect your trails and wild places. If there's something you're missing, let us know.

Patience. We understand that different people have different ways of contributing, and we understand that this can be difficult at times. If you're struggling, tell us. We'll endeavour to help any way we can.

You will never be expected to do anything you don't want to do.



What We Ask You To Commit To

The main task of an A-TEAMer is to promote Trash Free Trails and our work within your local trail community and wider networks. There are myriad ways you can contribute, and we encourage you to do so in the way that feels best for you. As a standard there are 4 things we would love you to commit to:

- At least 1 Trail Clean organised & delivered by you (this can be in collaboration with other A-TEAMers or your local Community Hub - see below for more info)
- Represent us at at least one 3rd party event
- When posting on socials about TFT, tag in and thank our partnership ecosystem
- Respond to emails, whatsapp and other communications promptly

We totally understand sometimes these won't be feasible; please notify us as soon as possible if you're unable to commit to any of the above.

In line with this, we have 5 key requests:

No guilt. Everyone has different ways of protecting their trails and wild places and we respect this.

Be available. Show up!

Be open and honest with yourself, fellow A-TEAMers and TFT HQ about what you are able to do to protect what you love. There's room for you to get involved at every level, if you have the time! Just let us know if you'd like to help.

Integrity. If you say you're going to do something, do it; if you're struggling, ask for help. It's always there when you need it!

Patience. We are a super small team and we're going to get loads of stuff wrong but we promise you that we are ALWAYS trying our best.

We believe this combination makes for achieving awesome things together that bring us closer to our mission. Below you'll find more information to help you make the best of your A-TEAMer activations.

Partners

Post 3 “Rubbish Routes” on komoot throughout the year, tagging the Trash Free Trails profile, and do your best to promote komoot to your community to do the same.

When you are representing TFT, please do your best to wear the custom Endura kit and/or TFT-branded clothing.

If you’re posting online, it’s super important to thank our partners, without whom we wouldn’t be able to support you. Please tag them on social media, shout out to them in videos, and mention them when hosting your own trail clean events. See below for the list:

Endura (I: @enduraofficial / FB: @endura / X: @endura)

WTB (I: @wildernesstrailbikes / FB: @WTB)

Forestry England (I: @forestryengland / FB: @forestryengland / X: @forestryengland)

Pedal MTB (I: @pedalmtb / FB: @Pedal MTB Ltd)

Fenwicks (I: @fenwicksbikes / FB: Fenwick’s Bike Products)

Squire (I: @squirelocks / FB: @Squire Locks)

Projects

The TFT Route Map provides you with a topline overview of all TFT projects happening through the year. You can also download key date directly into your calendar from the A-TEAM Calendar, available from TFTHQ. Your trail clean activation might tie in with a specific project, or might be a one-off event - it’s totally up to you!

When promoting or participating in a project, the key ask is to share your experiences, connections, knowledge and passion with your local trail community. We rely on you to get our message out there, however you choose to do that.

Pairing With a Community Hub

A-TEAM members to be paired with their local Trash Free Trails Community Hub. Each Community Hub will be linked with 1 or 2 A-TEAM members. Community Hubs are a local base who are, like you, passionate about the TFT mission. They're your on-the-ground support network for trail clean activations and events in your area.

The role of A-TEAMers within Community Hubs is to support and offer guidance to Hub managers in the lead up, during and after trail clean moments. You are the experts! This can include, but is not limited to:

- **Helping to plan and organise trail clean moments with community members**
- **Planning rubbish routes using Komoot for use during trail clean moments**
- **Sharing the trail clean moment through your channels to encourage community members to #JoinTheTrashMob**
- **Represent TFT during trail clean moments**
- **Ensure TCH Managers / Community members are briefed appropriately before a trail clean moment**
- **Share information with the Community Hubs Project Coordinator on moments planned & any points of note, before, during and after trail clean moments.**

All Community Hubs are different and some may require a little more support than others. If at any point you think that a Community Hub is a little too reliant on your assistance as an A-TEAMer noise up, let us know, we can help. At the same time, if a Community Hub has gone a little radio silent, let us know!

Working With Minors and Vulnerable Adults

Trail cleans are wonderful events that will attract folks from all walks of life - this includes individuals under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults.

As part of the role of being an A-TEAMer, all individuals will be asked to complete an Enhanced DBS check, funded by TFT, to confirm their capacity to work with these vulnerable groups. If you know of any reason why you might not be able to do so, please let us know as early in the conversation as possible.

If you don't feel as if you are able to keep any of these commitments please let us know as soon as you can.

We recognise being an A-TEAMer is significant, and there might come a time where these commitments aren't feasible for you or don't feel right anymore. We encourage you to be honest if the role no longer fits; that's totally okay! Everyone's circumstances can change, and you'll always be part of our ecosystem and able to contribute to our mission in a way that suits you.

Case Studies

You're a diverse bunch, and there's a good deal more to what we do than counting and recycling squashed Red Bull cans every now and again. We also know that you have lives outside of this, and everybody contributes in different ways, with that most precious of your assets – time.

Here's just 3 of you, who all contribute in a different, but equally valuable way. Everything you do in our name helps us get that little bit closer to where we're going, and we love you for that.



Matt Kennelly

Matt lays claim to the southern most A-TEAMer - from Wadebridge, Cornwall Matt is as keen as they come. He's always the first to sign up to anything and everything. His journey started with a section of, then, wasteland not far from his home. Over 8 hours of cleaning and some trips to local businesses, the area is restored with new measures in place to keep it clean with businesses and consumers sharing the responsibility. A firefighter and all round nice guy Matt is TFT through an through, his passion for running, riding and roaming sees him and his pink helmet never to far from a trail and wild place.



Hari Milburn

A fresh recruit to the A-TEAM for 2024 though Hari was an A-TEAMer before she was even an A-TEAMer. Founder of Trash Cat - bringing riders from all over the South West to clean Bristol trails. With events attracting up to 90 community volunteers each time and a choice of rides it's no wonder over 2000+ items of Single-Use Pollution have been removed. A well seasoned gravel rider Hari brings an infectious level of energy to the A-TEAM and her local community of riders.



Ali Hair

The head of the Trash Free Cambu crew Ali is a top A-TEAMer and pioneer of TFT Approved. It was through his love of riding and trail building Ali set up Trash Free Cambu, bringing local community together to tackle Single-Use Pollution on their local trails and change the perception of riders in the local area. This passion lead to Ali developing TFT Approved and making it a reality. The DIO scheme enables event organisers to bring more sustainable practices to their event spaces. Encouraging participants and spectators to do their bit too. Now in it's 3rd year TFT Approved has reached mountain tops the world over, from the XC World Championships in Glentress to Red Bull Hardline in Tasmania.

Declaration

You've made it through the charter! All that's left is this short declaration; this is something all A-TEAMers have to sign to confirm their capacity to join the ambassador programme

If you have any questions about the below, email Rich on rich@trashfreetrails.org

I will do my level best to empower and enable the #TRASHMOB to be happy, healthy and resilient stewards of their trails and wild places.

I will not be silent; I know where to go to get support and help, to enable me to be the best A-TEAMer I can be.

I will participate in as many TFT projects and programmes as I am interested in and able to.

There is no reason that I am aware of why I would not be able to conduct community events in the presence of minors & vulnerable adults.

I will celebrate and shout proudly about my role as an A-TEAMer, and my position in this the unique Trash Free Trails ecosystem!

Signed





TRASH FREE TRAILS THE TEAM

TRASH
<FREE>
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