



Appalachian Mountain Teen Project REFERRAL/APPLICATION CRITERIA

P.O. Box 1597, Wolfeboro, NH 03894
(603) 569-5510

AMTP participants are youth who can enthusiastically and *voluntarily* participate in a program with two core components: weekly mentoring sessions with an AMTP staff member and small group experiences with peers that include outdoor trips, community service projects, job and higher education exploration.

Teen participants are youth who bring courage, resilience, strengths, and skills of their own to the group. They may live in families who struggle to make ends meet and they may be one of the first in the family to graduate high school or go to college. Many participants have experienced personal losses and they may feel confused or sad because of divorce, separation, illness, or death. They may experience difficulty at school, feel as though they do not quite “fit in” with peers, or find it hard to make and keep good friends.

Referral / Application -- Criteria

- Participants will be accepted into the program regardless of race, color, creed, social-economic background, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.
- We are committed to meeting the needs of youth whose options are limited due to economic, geographic, cultural or social barriers.
- Participants will be enrolled when they are between the ages of 12 and 15.
- Participants will be from towns in our service area:
 - Belknap County (Alton, Barnstead, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia)
 - Carroll County (Brookfield, Effingham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, Wolfeboro)
- Participants will be those in need of a prevention program, but not in need of a crisis intervention and/or residential treatment.
- Youth will not be accepted into the program if one or more of the following issues are present and if the issues(s) is not being addressed by an appropriate intervention:
 - history of violent or self injurious behavior
 - history of arson
 - drug and/or alcohol abuse problem
 - Physical and/or psychological limitations which make it impossible to meet the demands of rigorous peer-group activities

Additional Considerations

Over the years, we have paid close attention to the circumstances that make it possible for teens and families to experience the best possible match with AMTP. In general participants experience the most success when:

- Teens are interested in and open to trying new outdoor and community service activities.
- Teens begin involvement with AMTP at the beginning of 7th or 8th grade. AMTP is a prevention program. We find that teens that connect with AMTP in early adolescence are best able to use the program to strengthen their skills and relationships at home, at school, and in the community.
- Teens and families are not seeking or expecting everyday activities. AMTP offers a handful of trips and activities during the school year and several days of trips in the summer. We do not offer after school programs every day nor do we offer summer camp.
- Teens are not already involved in multiple social services concurrently. When teens are already meeting with multiple adults or programs (probation officers, trackers, individual counselors, family counselors, etc.) at the same time, it is often hard for them to invest in these multiple connections in a meaningful and effective way.
- Parents support active involvement in the AMTP. Parents can play a significant role in helping to make AMTP a beneficial experience by talking with their teen about AMTP activities, assisting with preparing for activities, and communicating with AMTP staff.