

Andrew McCauley '09
Parker Reed '09
Peter Shellito '09

Schlitz application for the Long Trail.
August 21st until it's done (expect to be out of woods before September 13th).

Budget:

Transportation:

\$30 Gas for drop-off at start of Trail, ride provided by friend from Boston area.
\$60 Taxi Fare from end of trail to Burlington VT (estimate based on fare last year to get from Johnson VT to Middlebury Gap)
\$159 (53 x 3) Total cost for three tickets from Burlington to Boston on either Greyhound or Vermont Transit.

Food:

\$360 Estimated cost of food for hike. Estimate is \$8 a day per person for 18 days, which is right between the fastest and slowest we expect to finish the hike. Should include the cost of fuel

Total: \$609

Would appreciate whatever money the DOC can provide, we have not sought funding from other sources.

Our intention is to through hike Vermont's Long Trail start to finish at the end of the summer as a group. We expect to complete the 267 mile trail in less than three weeks, so starting on August 21st will allow us to finish by September 13th, when orientation begins. We are beginning so late in the season because the trail conditions in respect to mud and bugs improve as the summer goes on, and the weather will still be warm enough to make camping very comfortable.

The trail itself is the oldest long distance trail in the country and is very frequently traveled annually by through hikers and day hikers alike. Most of the trip planning will be based on available literature about the trail itself (Long Trail Guide and End to Ender's Guide both printed by the Green Mountain Club, and past personal experience on the trail. Peter and I hiked a ninety mile section of the trail together last summer from Middlebury Gap to Johnson, VT in six days, averaging about 18 miles a day. We expect to maintain a twenty mile a day pace, which would finish the trail in fourteen days. While this pace will not be easy to maintain, by packing more efficiently than we had last year and more training to prepare over the summer I think the pace will be very manageable.

Last summer we did a section of the trail in one several day shot, not needing to restock during the hike. This summer we would like to do the entire hike, which should add the complication of restocking mid-hike to the existing skills required of the backpacking itself. All three of us have first aid experience through the boy scouts as

well as American Heart Association certifications. We are all also members of the lightweight crew team and so are going into the hike in strong physical shape, so we should be prepared for the attempt.

While every backcountry outing has inherent risks, because the trail is well traveled and never more than a few miles hike from the road, the Long Trail is a fairly safe expedition. We will carry at least one cell phone among the three of us as well as basic first aid supplies for small injuries. With our first aid experience we should be able to handle any likely injury, or at least find help with relative speed. In the Green Mountains there are few serious animal threats, and so while there are animals to be taken seriously, the greater danger is to security of food rather than personal safety.

Over the course we intend to maintain personal journals of experiences along the trail. After the trip is over we will bring these together contribute either a practical guide for doing the hike itself or a collection of creative additions, which we can contribute to 'Woodsmoke.' In either case we hope to journal the trip and make it available to the Dartmouth community. Our presentation will involve a slideshow of photographs taken during the trip as well as a discussion of critical planning trips and other advice for those interested in through hiking. Based on attendance at the film "South Bounders," there seems to be a fair amount of interest in long distance hiking.

-Andrew McCauley