



## Membership Application

The Ouray Trail Group is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation and safe public use of Ouray County's trails. The Group was founded in 1986, and is made up entirely of volunteers.

The Ouray Trail Group encourages safe and enjoyable hiking and related low impact activities in the San Juans, while protecting their beauty and resources. To accomplish this, we coordinate trail restoration and sign work with the U.S. Forest Service; publish a hiking guide; maintain a web site ([www.ouraytrails.org](http://www.ouraytrails.org)); create and maintain trail registers; and organize trail days for the general public, our volunteers and school students.

Ouray Trail Group members enjoy the following benefits:

- Voting privileges at all meetings.
- Participation in a variety of unique trail projects.
- Training opportunities.
- Special activities, such as exploration hikes.
- Social events, such as parties and picnics.

Most importantly, members have the opportunity to take a stewardship role in protecting, preserving and maintaining the natural and recreational resources we all enjoy.

**Yes! I would like to be a member of the Ouray Trail Group\*. In addition, I have read the Volunteer Work Agreement between the Ouray Trail Group and the U.S. Forest Service.**

Name:

Address/Phone:

email:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:

Trail work    Adopt-a-Trail    Community Outreach    Other:

\* There are no dues required to be a member of the Ouray Trail Group. Your dedication to the mission of the Group, and your passion for the preservation of Ouray County trails is payment enough. We do encourage you to carry a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue card, which you may purchase through the Ouray Trail Group, while enjoying the outdoors.

**Ouray Trail Group & U.S. Forest Service  
Umbrella Volunteer Work Agreement**

**PARTIES:**

THE OURAY TRAIL GROUP, INC., a non-profit corporation, incorporated in the State of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as "OTG", and the OURAY RANGER DISTRICT OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as "USFS".

**WHEREAS:**

1. Both parties are interested in promoting the enjoyable use and preserving the beauty of the Uncompahgre National Forest by developing and maintaining recreational and historic trails in the National forest.
2. USFS is responsible for developing and maintaining these trails; however funding, resources and other priorities often limit its ability to discharge these responsibilities in the manner desired by both Parties.
3. OTG desires to assist the USFS in this trail development and maintenance on a voluntary basis and USFS welcomes this assistance.

**AGREEMENT:**

1. Duties and Responsibilities of OTG:
  - 1.1 OTG will promote, solicit and organize volunteers to assist USFS in developing and maintaining trails in the Uncompahgre National Forest.
  - 1.2 OTG will brief, train and supervise the volunteers when USFS is unable to provide its own employees for same. Provided that the work of the volunteer is conducted in accordance with the standards and requirements of USFS, the volunteers are deemed to be direct volunteers of USFS for purposes of this Agreement.
  - 1.3 OTG will keep all sign-in sheets and other records on the volunteers as required by USFS.
  - 1.4 OTG will ensure that volunteers comply with any USFS safety and certification requirements on the use of tools, specifically with regard to chain saws. Any worker who elects to disregard these requirements will do so at his or her sole risk, will not be considered to be a volunteer to USFS under this Agreement and will not enjoy the benefits bestowed by USFS under this Agreement.
  - 1.5 OTG will obtain USFS approval of all work by volunteers and encourage participation by USFS employees in its meetings and work groups.
2. Duties and Responsibilities of USFS:
  - 2.1 USFS will consider all volunteers organized by OTG to be direct volunteers to USFS. Such volunteers will enjoy all the benefits of directly working for USFS on a volunteer basis, specifically with regard to Workman's Compensation coverage.
  - 2.2 Since volunteers will essentially be working directly for USFS, any governmental immunity from liability enjoyed by USFS will be conveyed to OTG, its directors, officers and members.
  - 2.3 USFS will provide OTG copies of its standards for record keeping and sign-up by volunteers.
  - 2.4 USFS will provide OTG copies of its trail standards, requirements and necessary certification for any work done by volunteers.
3. Typical Work of Volunteers:
  - 3.1 Fabrication, installation and maintenance of trail signage, trail registers and trail direction indicators.
  - 3.2 Monitoring condition of trails to report the need for maintenance work to USFS.
  - 3.3 Trail maintenance/construction work with hand tools such as clippers, loppers, axes, saws, Pulaskis, McLeods, shovels, etc. Use of powered tools such as chain-saws by volunteers under this Agreement will be conducted only in accordance with USFS standards of safety and certification.
  - 3.4 Developing new trails and trail sections as approved by the USFS.
  - 3.5 Participation in National Trails Day.
  - 3.6 Participation in the OTG Adopt-a-Trail Program.