Hello!

Welcome to the 2016 Frenchtown Crew!

We are excited for our upcoming time with you and are here to answer any questions that you or your family have as you get ready. To get started, we thought we’d tell you a bit about ourselves.

**John Leader**

I grew up in New Hampshire and my first introduction to the great outdoors was day hikes up Mount Monadnock and a few overnight camp-outs with my parents. In high school, a few friends and I started up an outing club/Jr. Sierra Club and this cemented my love for BEING OUTSIDE! After high school I went to Colby College in Maine and had a fantastic time on our outdoor orientation trip (so much so that I joined the student committee which organized these trips for incoming freshman, led five of these trips myself in successive years, and worked for two summers at Colby to organize these trips). I was also active in the Colby Outing Club and the Ultimate Frisbee Club. I took a semester off after my freshman year to participate in a semester program with the National Outdoor Leadership School in the Rockies.

After college I began work with an AMC construction crew, building and maintaining the huts and lodges in the White Mountains. This was generally a very sweet commute to work, hiking into huts that are between 2.5 and 6 miles from their trailheads on many mornings. After a total of ten years at the AMC I moved to Portland, Maine and started working for a residential construction company that focused on "green building." I have been doing that since. I love mountain biking and skiing and I think the thing I am going to miss most during our time in Frenchtown (besides my family) is riding my bike!

**Jane Leader**

I hail from metro Detroit. Growing up in a suburb, most of my outdoor experience was limited to playing soccer, volleyball, and running cross country and track. I did some hiking during family vacations to Montana, but that was about it.

I graduated from college (Wayne State University) with a degree in Spanish and a desire to teach. That summer, I took a job leading high school trail crews with the SCA on somewhat of a whim. By the end of the summer I fell in love with living and working in the outdoors.

I have worked with the SCA for over 3 years now. I have led high school trail crews in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Michigan. I was part of a 10-month AmeriCorps program based out of western Massachusetts in 2008 where I taught environmental education and worked on various trail projects. I was a member of an amazing crew leader trail crew in the Desolation Wilderness in Lake Tahoe. Finally, I interned with the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Missoula, Montana this past winter.

I’m currently hanging out at my parents’ house in Michigan and taking some pre-requisite courses for grad school. I'm planning on attending Bard College in New York in the fall to study environmental science and policy. I am incredibly excited to spend a month camping and working with you all in Colorado before I have to hit the books for grad school!

These are the best ways to contact us:

**John Leader**

Cell Phone: 888-888-8888

Email: jleader@gmail.com

Mail: 1 Main Street, Charlestown, NH 03603 (I love postcards!)

**Jane Leader**

Cell Phone: 555-555-5555

Email: jleader2@gmail.com

I’ll be travelling out of the country between July 1st and July 15th, with no phone or internet access. If you have questions during that time, contact John or call the Crew Hotline at 888-722-9675 x1496.

Are you ready for an adventure? We are going to be camping out at the Frenchtown campground. This is an awesome site surrounded by old growth trees. There is plenty of room for tents, a picnic table for cooking, and easy access to running water, showers, and composting toilets. We’ll be located away from other campers, so will have plenty of privacy to make this place our home for two weeks.

We’ll be working at the Nishisackawick Creek Preserve on their Mill Race Nature Trail. This site is close to a local playground and gets lots of use, so our work is going to make a big impact. Our main job is to repair a trail that has been deteriorating from erosion and heavy use. We’ll be working with local rock and timber to reinforce the trail and fix several washed out areas. When we finish that project, we’ll move on to help restore the native species to the area, mainly by clearing out lots of multiflora rose and other non-native species. We met with the site staff yesterday and they are so excited about the work that we’re going to be doing to improve their park.

Our mailing address will be:

ATTN: SCA Crew

Your Name

10 Campground Road

Frenchtown, NJ 00000

If your friends and family want to send you care packages or letters while you’re here, this is the place to send them. We do have a couple of allergies on our team, so please ask people not to send any items with peanuts or tree nuts. Lucky for us, there are no critter issues at this campground, so other treats are welcome!

The gear list that you received when you accepted your position should include everything that you need, but we want to highlight some items that are particular to our trip. Since we will be setting up base camp at the campground and staying there for the two weeks, you won’t need a backpacking pack. If you have one, it’s fine to bring it, but if you don’t, there’s no need to buy one. You can pack everything in a duffel bag, and bring a small backpack (like a school pack) to carry your lunch, water and rain gear every day. We recommend bringing two pairs of work gloves. We’ll be doing a lot of work with big rocks and thorny rosebushes, and gloves can get worn out pretty quickly. There’s a great swimming spot at the site, so definitely bring appropriate swim attire if you like to get wet. We’ll have group sunscreen, but if you have sensitive skin or like a specific kind, you may want to bring your own. Other than that, if you follow the gear list, you should be all set. Let us know if you have any other gear questions.

We’ll be meeting you at the **Newark International Airport at Baggage Claim C on Monday July 25th**. We’ll both be wearing blue SCA T-shirts and Jane will have on her favorite cowboy hat, so we should be pretty recognizable. We’ll be there at 10am to meet our earliest arrival and will be hanging out together at Baggage Claim C until our last member arrives around 2:15. If for some reason you don’t see us, just stay put at Baggage Claim C and we will find you. We’ll be watching the monitors so don’t worry if your flight comes in late. We won’t leave without you! If you are able, contact us on John’s cell phone (888-888-8888) as soon as you know of any delays.

Important reminders

1. **If you take medications, you need to bring at least two sets of each one to the crew**.

2. **If anything has changed about your health since you filled out your medical form, you need to tell SCA right away**. You can tell us directly or use the crew hotline (888-722-9675) or email address (crews@thesca.org).

If you want to start getting into the conservation mindset, these are a couple of our favorite books (and one Ted Talk). If you have others that you like, please “respond all” and add to the list.

Reading the Forested Landscape, by Tom Wessels

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, by Annie Dillard

Grub: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen, by Bryant Terry

John Francis: Walk the Earth (http://www.ted.com/talks/john\_francis\_walks\_the\_earth)

We’ll be sending out another email soon and contacting you by phone for a final check in before our crew begins, but if anything comes up in the meantime, don’t hesitate to contact us. We’re super excited to talk about all things crew-related!