

**Maine Huts and Trails
Trip Request 2017/18**

Colby is interested in a strong eco-tourism, environmental stewardship education, and conservation partner in the western mountains of Maine that can expand educational and research opportunities for their students and faculty. Maine Huts and Trails, MH&T, seeks research projects and systems assessments that will inform action to improve efficiency of off-the-grid energy systems, the development of local economies, as well as strategies relative to conservation, education, and environmental stewardship. Colby has a partnership with MH&T (<https://mainehuts.org>) to advance these goals and is able to fund a total of 100 overnight visits during the 2017/18 academic year. Please complete this trip request form if you would like to use MH&T facilities as part of a class trip. Email the completed form to Michael Donihue and Whitney King.

Name of Faculty Member Michael Burke
Department English
Course Name and Number EN 115: The Environmental Imagination
Requested Dates September 22-23, 2017
Requested Hut Stratton Brook

Participant Numbers:

Faculty/Staff	Michael Burke & Harper Burke
Students enrolled in the class	16
Students supporting the trip	(Not sure what this means?)
Total Participants	18

Description of the Class Trip. (Please describe how this trip will provide reciprocal benefits for Colby and MH&T.)

We will leave from Colby in mid-afternoon on Friday, the 22nd, and travel by van(s) to the trailhead north of Kingfield. After hiking up to the Stratton Brook hut and getting settled, we'll have dinner, and then in a separate space, discuss nature writing and what they might have observed (physically, emotionally, intellectually) on the hike up to the hut. In the morning students will spend an hour at least in an intentional, solitary activity in the vicinity of the hut. In mid-morning they will re-gather in the lodge and start drafting their own nature writing essay, which will be edited and redrafted for submission on October 4th, when all the essays will be workshopped in the classroom at Colby.

In late morning we will hike back down the trail to the vans and return to Colby shortly after lunch. My daughter, Harper Burke ('13), who worked for MH&T for three years, will assist the trip as a trail guide and resource on the MH&T experience.