

**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 Susan MacKenzie
Department Environmental Studies
Course Name and Number ES 151
Requested Dates Jan 25-26, 2019 (arrive for lunch, leave after breakfast)
Requested Hut Flagstaff

Participant Numbers:

Faculty/Staff	Susan MacKenzie/Michael Donihue
Students enrolled in the class	16 (may allow class to go to 18)
Students supporting the trip	0
Total Participants	18-20

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

The focus of this Jan Plan is American Environmental Literature, specifically 19th-21st century writings about natural landscapes that inspire a sense of connection with and action on behalf of nature. The final week of class is devoted to action—the steps nonprofits have taken to preserve natural landscapes. Toward that end, over many years, we have had field trips to Belgrade Regional Conservation Association, Kennebec Land Trust, and Quarry Road public lands, and an overnight trip to Sky Lodge in the Forks. Each of those trips included a presentation about the landscape and why it was valued for preservation, conservation, or recreational uses.

I propose to take students to Flagstaff to expose them to Maine's wild landscape so they can experience for themselves the scope and grandeur of nature and I hope they will hear from the hosts of the hut about the vision and mission of MHT and why and how this landscape is being protected.