

VOC Project/Training Difficulty Rating Criteria



**The following criteria are used to determine the overall difficulty rating for VOC Volunteer Projects and Trainings.
A combination of all factors is weighed to create an overall difficulty rating of easy, moderate or difficult.
Multiple difficulty levels may be assigned based on presence of different factors.**

Criteria Considered

<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Difficulty</p>	<p>Easy: Little to no hiking involved. Tasks are low in technical difficulty, can be accomplished with the lowest amount of physical effort and pose the least amount of inherent risk. Terrain presents few physical risks or dangers. Tools do not need to be carried far and little weight is needed for personal gear. Project is usually (though not always) at low altitude. Minimum age may be set from 6 years to 8 years, though can be higher depending on other criteria.</p>	<p>Moderate: Hiking of some distance (3 miles or less total) over moderate terrain may be required. Terrain for travel and work is more primitive and uneven, but still presents few immediate risks to most individuals. Tasks are more technical, require more physical effort, have more inherent risks, but are still doable for most people. Tools must be carried farther and/or more weight is carried in personal gear. Project may be at high altitude. Minimum age may be set from 12 years to 14 years, though can be set higher based on other criteria.</p>	<p>Difficult: Travel to worksite may require a long hike (3+ miles), or travel or work takes place over rough, steep or uneven terrain. Tasks are most technical, require most physical effort, and have the most inherent risks. They may not be appropriate for those who are too young, infirm or in poor physical condition. More tools are needed and must be carried farthest. Most personal gear (especially gear for spending multiple days on site) must be carried. Minimum age may be set from 14 years to 18 years.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Project Setting</p>	<p>In Town: Project takes place directly in a populated community. Emergency services are directly available via 911 and definitive care is reachable in less than an hour. Cell service is readily available via most carriers.</p>	<p>Accessible Frontcountry: A rural or urban/wildland interface setting that is within an hour of the nearest populated community with definitive care and is accessible by any motor vehicle on well maintained paved or dirt roads. Cell service may be limited and emergency services may need to be reached by some other means than 911. An appropriate first responder may be required to be on site.</p>	<p>Remote Frontcountry: A rural or otherwise remote setting that can be accessed by any motor vehicle on well maintained roads, but is more than an hour from definitive care. A more complex safety net is required as a 911 call is often not an option. An appropriate first responder is required to be on site.</p>	<p>Backcountry: Remotest location. Site can only be reached by driving a rough road (4x4, high clearance, short wheel base) or hiking in a distance of 3+miles while carrying all needed gear. Volunteers may be an hour or more from their vehicles and hours or up to a day from definitive care. A more complex safety net is required as a 911 call is often not an option. An appropriate first responder is required to be on site.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Project Duration</p>	<p>Partial Day: Activities are scheduled for less than 6 hours or volunteer time commitment is flexible. Minor volunteers younger than 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.</p>	<p>Full Day: Activities are scheduled for 6-8 hours, plus travel time. Volunteers may be expected to commit to the duration of the event unless they become physically unable to do so. Minor volunteers younger than 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.</p>	<p>Multi Day: Activities are scheduled over 2-3 full days. Camping may be available for volunteers (sometimes not the case on multi-day trainings). In some settings, camping may be the only option for volunteers staying the duration of the project. In some cases, volunteers must commit to all scheduled days of the event. Minor volunteers younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.</p>	<p>Week-long: Longest commitment undertaken by VOC. 4-5 days living and working in a remote, backcountry setting - including travel time. Volunteers must commit to all scheduled days of the event. Minor volunteers younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.</p>