

OUTDOOR FLORIDA WEBINAR SERIES



Youth Involvement in the Outdoors and Trail Maintenance



10 AM

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Emily Padden
Program Coordinator

Florida Trail Association's
Next Generation Coalition

Emily Padden serves as the program coordinator for the Florida Trail Association's Next Generation Coalition, which aims to engage Florida youth and young adults in outdoor spaces and communities. Established in 2021, the Next Generation Coalition has worked to expand FTA's outreach and connections with young adults across Florida interested in volunteering and working in outdoor environments. It increases their awareness of environmental advocacy opportunities, creates a network of like-minded individuals, and provides chances for professional development and training.

Since starting her tenure at FTA, Emily has focused on enhancing the Next Generation program by creating a broader youth volunteer initiative. This program is designed to facilitate connections between Next Gen members and FTA's volunteer chapters to boost youth participation throughout the organization, as well as to expand current environmental education and professional development opportunities for program participants. The Next Generation Coalition and Youth Volunteers program continues to grow, offering Florida's youth the chance to learn essential skills and experiences in outdoor spaces and career fields.

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