



Dear Circuit Supporter,

We invite your Trail or Conservation Non-Governmental Organization to join the Circuit Coalition. Below you will find some more information about what our mission and strategic goals are, and the Benefits and Responsibilities your organization will have if you join the Coalition.

Please review this information about our Coalition. Coalition member are organizations that have some kind of connection with multi-use trails that accommodate all types of users in the nine counties of the Greater Philadelphia region of PA and NJ. Organizations outside of this area can still submit a request, but must demonstrate their connectivity and relevance to the 750 miles of trails that have been already mapped.

If you feel that the interests of your organization align with those of the Coalition, we ask that you email us a letter on your letterhead stating your understanding of the benefits and responsibilities, and formally request that your organization become a part of the Coalition. We would appreciate knowing a little about your organization, its history, governance, and how many members or supporters the organization represents.

The letter must be signed by a representative of your organization that has the formal authority to commit to the responsibilities of being a Circuit Coalition member organization. Please email your letter to [sarah@bicyclecoalition.org](mailto:sarah@bicyclecoalition.org)

Then – that's it! A member of the Steering Committee will contact you to confirm your participation!

## **Circuit Mission**

The Circuit Coalition will advance completion and use of the Circuit Trails, Greater Philadelphia's multi-use regional trail network, with the goal of making it the best network in the nation.

The Circuit Trails will steadily increase connections in the greater Philadelphia area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; connecting urban populations to rural landscapes, residential neighborhoods to one another and to commercial corridors, recreation sites and other cultural venues.

The Coalition's mission extends deep into the community, hoping to spur the creation of the current and future stewards of the Circuit Trails; and far into the future, hoping to create enthusiastic support for the use and maintenance of the Circuit Trails for generations to come.

## **Circuit Coalition Overall Goals for 2016 - 2017**

The Circuit Coalition will endeavor to:

- Seek a regional commitment to finish Circuit Trails trunk lines by 2025.
- Seek a regional commitment to maintain Circuit-wide trail development of completing twenty miles annually.
- Build Circuit Trails constituent base and develop activist leaders.
- Diversify the base of the Circuit Trails outside the trail advocates circle.
- Create diverse and stable trail funding in New Jersey.
- Create unified signage for the Circuit Trails.
- Create a strategy for working with regional and national railroads and utilities to advance the development of Circuit Trails.
- Demystify maintenance issues as a roadblock to trail development.

## **Benefits and Responsibilities of Circuit Coalition Member Organizations:**

Coalition membership will have multiple benefits for Member Organizations, including:

- 1) All Member Organization employees will be eligible to participate in Circuit Coalition events and meetings – even those not formally open to the general public.
- 2) Each Member Organization will receive one single vote to select the members of the Circuit Coalition Steering Committee and on other votes brought to the membership by the Steering Committee
- 3) Each Member Organization will be able to make nominations to the Steering Committee
- 4) Each Member Organization will have direct access to the latest Federal, state, and regional trail funding information
- 5) Each Member Organization will be able to assist the Steering Committee and state and regional governmental agencies in identifying trail development priorities
- 6) As part of the Circuit Coalition, each Member Organization will have unmatched access to the leaders in regional trail development, and to multiple other networking opportunities

Each Member Organization will have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Exhibit and promote the Circuit Trails logo and the organization's participation in the Circuit Coalition, including by posting the Circuit Trails logo and map on the organization's website and by sharing stories and articles with the communications team that manages the CircuitTrails.org website and social media platforms.
- 2) If the organization plans, designs, engineers, or builds segments of trails within the Circuit Trails, it shall endeavor to use the Circuit Trails signage templates and a mention of the Circuit Trails in all project communications to the public and in signs at construction sites
- 3) Cooperate with the Steering Committee in implementation of the Strategic Goals and Action Items that are selected by the Steering Committee each year
- 4) Serve as a point person or member of one or more of the strategy subcommittees, depending on area of expertise and interest.

**Steering Committee of Coalition:**

The Circuit Coalition is governed by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets monthly to better coordinate member organizations' efforts. The 11 member Steering Committee including a chair and two vice-chairs (one representing Pennsylvania and one representing New Jersey). The members represent both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and a mix of advocacy organizations, trail owners and operators and funders.

Thank you!

Sarah Clark Stuart  
Circuit Coalition Chair