

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I adopt more than one island?

Absolutely!

How many Adopters are there for each island?

The more Adopters the better. Having multiple Adopters for each island is ideal to ensure the best possible stewardship throughout the boating season. Because visitor use can vary in frequency and Adopters often have different schedules, having multiple Adopters provides the best coverage.

Can islands be co-adopted with family or friends?

Yes. Co-adopting is a great way to make a combined positive impact on the environment while enjoying Maine's coastline.

How often do Adopters visit their island?

We encourage Adopters to visit at least monthly between Memorial Day and Labor Day. More is better but less is okay too. The key is to make each visit count and let MITA know about it.

Are Island Adopters the island police?

No. MITA encourages a neighborly approach when interacting with visitors. Privacy, solitude, and a wilderness experience are why most folks visit the islands. We do our best to be unobtrusive, casual, and friendly. Our primary role is to encourage low impact use and ensure that visitors are aware of the island owner's wishes without being confrontational.

What kind of trash do Island Adopters remove?

We clean up almost all trash that has washed up or has been left behind by visitors. We typically DO NOT remove derelict fishing gear such as buoys and lobster traps, or wood and other natural materials. If large amounts of fishing gear have accumulated, please notify MITA.

What do you do with unauthorized fire rings?

Dismantle, disperse and disguise! Fire rings that are not approved by MITA (check the Trail Guide) are taken apart to discourage further use. After making sure the fire is completely out, we scatter the stones and cover the charred area as best we can.

What happens after an Adopter visits an island?

Adopters submit an island monitoring report to let MITA know about their visit. It is important to report all trips, even if no visitors are seen or trash is found. Every visit provides input for our management plans and island owner reports. Report online (mita.org, report) or email stewards@mita.org.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT 207-761-8225 OR
STEWARDS@MITA.ORG**



WWW.MITA.ORG/ADOPTER

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MAINE ISLAND TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ISLANDADOPTER PROGRAM

Photo: Daniel E. Smith / ScenicNewEngland.net



ISLAND ADOPTER PROGRAM

Island Adopters are individuals or families who own a boat and monitor Maine Island Trail sites on their own schedule. Adopters are an essential part of island stewardship along the 375-mile Maine Island Trail, and play a vital role in MITA's strong volunteer community.

Contact MITA staff at 207.761.8225 or stewards@mita.org, and they can help you choose an island that is a good fit for you to adopt!

Once a Trail site has been assigned, Adopters can use this guide to follow the **5 Simple Steps of Stewardship**.

5 SIMPLE STEPS OF STEWARDSHIP

Photo: Jim Dugan

1) VISIT: Get out to your island as much as possible! Every stewardship visit is valuable.

2) OBSERVE:

Look for evidence of human impacts on the campsites and trails, including unauthorized fire rings, tree damage, erosion, trash or human waste. Also look for downed trees in use areas that may need to be cleared. Take note of visitors on the island, their activity, and any signs of wildlife.

Photo: Eliza Ginn

3) CLEAN:

Bring a trash bag to collect as much trash as you can from the shoreline, campsites and trails. Leave behind any usable fishing gear such as traps and buoys. Dismantle unauthorized fire rings, disperse the stones and disguise charred areas.

Photo: Jim Dugan

4) INTERACT:

Consider yourself an ambassador of stewardship MITA and the island owner. Politely encourage visitors to practice Leave No Trace techniques and comply with the usage guidelines found on island signs and in the MITA Trail Guide.



5) REPORT:

Tell us about your visit even if there is nothing notable to report. The feedback provides input for management decisions and helps maintain strong relationships with island owners.

Ways to report:

Online: mita.org/report
Email: stewards@mita.org
Text/VM: 207-370-8358

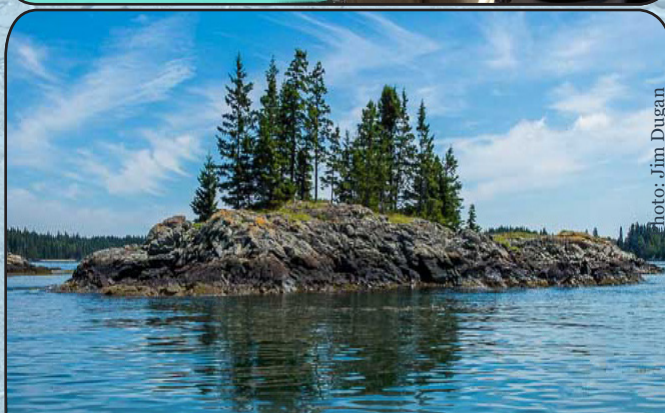


Photo: Jim Dugan

Know that you have made a difference helping to preserve Maine's wild islands for generations to come. **Thank you!**