

Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter Loony Loop Challenge

The Saint Lawrence River Valley region is home to some of the most beautiful natural areas in New York, offering splendid views of rivers, wetlands and forests, plus unique vegetation and wildlife. While the coronavirus pandemic makes travel and hiking on crowded Adirondack trails more difficult, now is the perfect time to explore the natural wonders near the US/Canadian border. The challenge destinations are described as hikes, however they are all suitable for snowshoeing, and many are also skiable.

The Laurentian Loony Loop Challenge is designed to provide some safe outing alternatives along low traffic trails in St. Lawrence County and Ontario Province, Canada. The hikes are suitable for all levels, including families with kids. They are guaranteed to challenge your map skills. Links to maps are included with each description and are strongly recommended while hiking.

Loop trails have been identified on both sides of the US/Canadian border so that hikers from both sides of the St. Lawrence River can participate, even if border crossings are restricted. While we recommend specific loop trails for many destinations, the patch requirements are flexible.

| US Hikes | Canadian Hikes |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Higley Flow State Park | Upper Canada Bird Sanctuary |
| Red Sandstone Sugar Island | Rock Dunder |
| Southville State Forest | Marble Rock |
| Bear Mountain | Parc Guindon |
| Peavine Swamp Trails | Mac Johnson Wildlife Area |
| Tooley Pond Mountain | Cooper Marsh Conservation Area |
| Robert Moses state Park | Frontenac Provincial Park |
| Wellesley Island State Park | Rideau Trail |
| Indian Creek Nature Center | Gould Lake Conservation Area |
| Catamount Mountain | Charleston Lake |
| Lost Pond Loop | Landon Bay Center |

You can earn the patch by completing any combination of US and Canadian trails. The goal is to get out, get some exercise and appreciate the natural resources of our region.

Safety first: **BRING A MAP!** Practice current social distancing recommendations when encountering other hikers.

To earn the Laurentian Loony Loop patch, complete 8 hikes from the destinations on the list. Hikes must be completed in 2020 or later can be done in any season. Canadian and US hikes can be combined to meet the 8-hike total.

Download the registration form and list of destinations to track your progress. Once you have completed 8 hikes, complete the registration form and mail it to one of the addresses listed on the form.