

10th Mountain Division Hut Association Service Animal Policy

10th Mountain fully supports and encourages the use of legitimate service animals for individuals with disabilities on trips to the huts provided such use does not fundamentally alter the nature of the backcountry hut experience for current and future hut visitors. **A service animal, defined under the ADA, is any breed and any size of dog that has been trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability. Emotional support, comfort dogs, or companion dogs do not qualify as service animals because providing emotional support or comfort is not a task related to a person's disability, and therefore are not permitted at the huts.** If you or a member of your group have a service animal and are considering a hut trip, please review the following:

1. Explore availability at huts that allow and encourage dog use, such as the High Lonesome Hut reserved by 10th Mountain, and other huts not reserved by 10th Mountain.
2. 10th Mountain recommends that the service animal owner/team rent the entire hut to help ensure that all hut visitors experience the huts as expected.
3. Travel in the remote backcountry has inherent risks, hazards and dangers that cannot be eliminated, particularly in a wilderness environment in mountainous terrain at, near or above treeline. Snow, trail and weather conditions vary, are unpredictable and change. A service animal struggling with such conditions may have to be carried which can make travel more difficult.

Pre-Trip Administrative Requirements for Service Animal Owner/Team

1. Due to the remote nature of the huts, multi-party booking configuration, lack of alternate nearby lodging, and absence of 10th Mountain staff, 10th Mountain asks that the service animal owner/team contact 10th Mountain **before** making a reservation to notify 10th Mountain that a service animal will be present.
2. Non-compliance with 10th Mountain's dog policies, which are available online, may result in up to a \$1,000 fine.

Requirements at the Hut

1. Due to sanitation concerns, service animals are not permitted to use any of the hut kitchen items (bowls, plates, pots, etc.) for eating or drinking. A dog bowl(s) must be brought to the hut.
2. When indoors at the hut, the service animal must stay on the floor at all times unless tasking for its handler requires it to be on the furniture.
3. The service animal shall be brought at least 25 yards away from the hut and outhouse in order to pee or poop. Poop must be picked up and carried out or deposited in the outhouse Dog poop bags must be brought to the hut.