

Adopt-A-Crevice Community Project

Environmental Studies Department
MERE Project
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What are Crevice Communities?

Crevice communities are the small pockets of vegetation that thrive on the rocky terrain on the top of Mt. Monadnock. These communities are specifically adapted to the extreme habitat of the



mountain, and have gone through many years of succession in order to reach their current level of biodiversity. These pockets of life are often small, and therefore very susceptible to human disturbances, including trampling and climate change. It is important to monitor these communities so we can

assess how humans have an impact on the mountain. MERE plans to conduct research in these communities for many years in the future, to observe how they are altered by the changing climate and other human impacts.

The Adopt-A-Crevice Community Project

In 2008, Peter Palmiotto of Antioch University New England and Marshall Davenson of Keene High School met to develop a tangible ecological experience for AP Science students. In September of 2008 Peter, Marshall, four Antioch graduate students, and two AP Science classes climbed Monadnock to test their idea by sampling a Monadnock crevice community. Prior to the trip, the students had worked

experiment. That trial run helped MERE develop the AACC program. Today the Adopt-A-Crevice-Community project continues to engage local high school students and teachers in hands-on, real world, subalpine research. After an in-classroom introduction to the MERE Project, students hike to the summit of Mt. Monadnock, where they survey vegetation in crevice communities. Back in the classroom, they compile and analyze their results. In past years, students have designed websites as a means of showcasing their research.

On Monadnock there are five permanently marked Crevice Communities. Baseline data was collected from these communities in 2010 and resampled in 2011 and 2013. Currently there are two schools working with the Crevice Community



Project, Keene High School and The Dublin School.

We are looking for high school classes and teachers who are interested in joining our Adopt-a-Crevice Community research initiative. Participating in the project can help you address Next Generation Science Standards. Take the learning outside, while you help us track changes on the summit of Mount Monadnock!