



Culture • Environment • Community

Overlook Mountain in Woodstock New York may well be one of the most important and sacred mountains in our region, if not all the northeast. Since the mountain has entered human consciousness many thousands of years ago, it has served people in innumerable ways and has attained high status, notoriety and recognition not just in the local community, but worldwide.

The mountain acts as a major gateway to the nearly one million acre Catskill Forest Preserve, offering the closest Catskill Mountain summit trailhead to the New York City metropolitan area. Overlook Mountain is also the center of Tibetan Buddhism in North America and was recognized as a sacred site by the Iroquois Confederacy at the Council at Onondaga in 1979.

It's time Overlook Mountain is honored and protected in a way that reflects its unique status and the immense contribution the mountain has made to humanity.

Forty years ago, three families joined together to purchase two large lots of land in Lewis Hollow on Overlook Mountain, to prevent the development of an approved 30 home subdivision known as Lewis Hollow Acres. From then until now, they kept the land wild and undeveloped; essentially as a game preserve for hunting and outdoor recreation, on the lower and mid-southeastern face of Overlook.

The current owners are no longer interested in conserving the land, and the land is actively being marketed by a local broker. Any time, the land could be purchased for development with plans to build a subdivision of high end homes, forever scaring the land and disturbing the cultural significance of the features found there.

The 501(c)3 educational non-profit, Overlook Mountain Center, Inc. (OMC), is endeavoring to purchase the property and establish the **Overlook Mountain Center** and preserve on this 82 area parcel of land.

We are currently beginning a planning and fundraising phase and OMC continues to actively explore a variety of ways to conserve the Lewis Hollow property as quickly as possible. To that end, it has been communicating with local and regional conservation organizations, including the Woodstock Land Conservancy, to explore different possible means of conserving this important property adjacent to the NYS Overlook Mountain Wild Forest. It is our hope these efforts will lead to purchase and permanent protection of this land as a historic site, eligible for listing in the National Register. In recent years, researchers have documented resources of cultural and historic significance exist on the property.

The site would eventually become the Overlook Mountain Center, home to a single small building, interpretive trail and kiosk, where people can learn, through ongoing programming, about the history, culture and wisdom the mountain has to offer. Nothing like this exists now in our area.



**"...Overlook Mountain.
May its human
neighbors in this time
of crisis, rally to its
defenses."**

– Alf Evers



Mysterious stone cairn of Overlook Mtn.

Current OMC Programming

Half-day workshops exploring landscape archaeology and archaeoastronomy in our region.

PowerPoint presentation and tour

Who made the stone structures in our woods and on our mountainsides?

When were they made and for what purpose?

How was the land used by those long ago?

Quarries, stone walls, stone mounds, property boundaries, survey markers, standing stones, star maps, astronomical alignments and effigies.

Could there be more to the story we still don't fully understand? Find out!

OMC will help you learn to read the forested landscape, as you discover the clues that unlock its past.

No walk in the woods will ever be the same.

Please donate and help support OMC and its mission

Overlook Mountain Center

www.overlookmountain.org

P.O. Box 1278 Woodstock, NY 12498

845 417 8384

Year Round Interpretive Tours:

Experienced NYSDEC licensed outdoor guides conduct interpretive hiking tours of Overlook Mountain.

- **Mysteries of Overlook Mountain:**

Tour the Great Cairns, effigy walls, a star constellation petroform/geoglyph and dozens of small stone cairn constructions located on Overlook.

- **California Quarry:**

Tour the remnants of a mid 19th Century bluestone quarry featuring extraction sites, quarry roads, quarry pools, test sites and worked stone.

- **Early Tourism:**

Tour locations visited by Overlook Mountain House guests. Summit hikes to the ruins of the Overlook Mountain House and nearby natural attractions.

- **Landscape Archaeology & Archaeoastronomy**

Tour sites in Woodstock and the Catskills, which display effigies and sky alignments, features of these universal construction elements.

Call 845 417 8384 to schedule a guided hike with Overlook Mountain Center for you or your group.

Go to www.overlookmountain.org to find out more

The Overlook Mountain Center (OMC), through promoting cultural history, environment awareness, and knowledge through collaboration, will act as a permanent human reflection of the mountain, honoring Overlook; the mountain that has given so much, to so many, in so many ways, for so long.

OMC creates programming that celebrates all aspects of Overlook Mountain, its past, present and future.



Overlook Mountain Center Mission Statement

OMC exists to promote awareness and understanding of the relationship between Overlook Mountain, its environment, culture and history and the human population that has encountered the mountain throughout time. OMC creates programming, exhibits and tours that celebrate all aspects of Overlook Mountain, its' past, present and future.