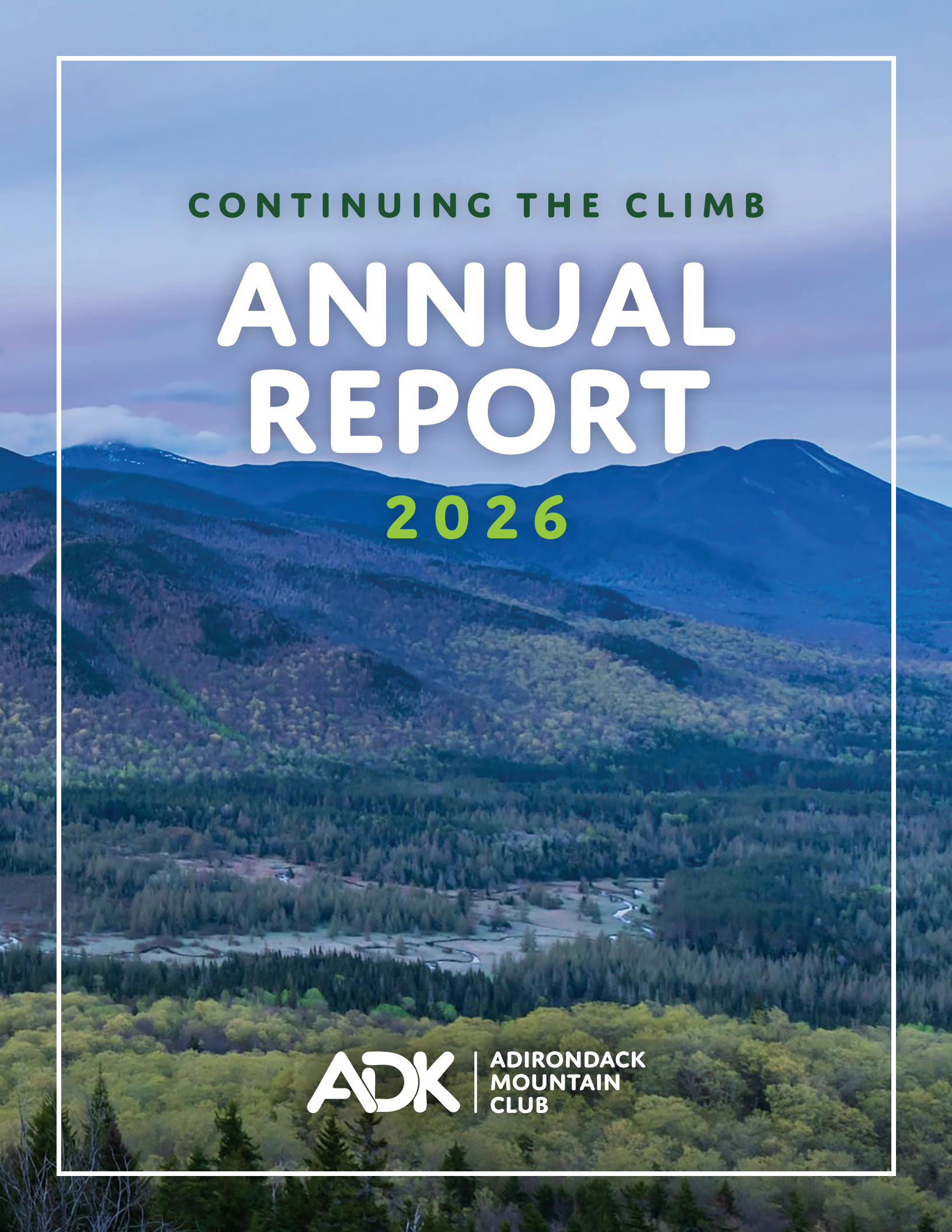


CONTINUING THE CLIMB

ANNUAL REPORT

2026

ADK | ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



OUR MISSION

THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB (ADK) WORKS TO PROTECT NEW YORK STATE WILD LANDS AND WATERS BY PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND BUILDING A STATEWIDE CONSTITUENCY OF LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVOCATES.

> **There is nothing like ADK. No other organization has the people, history, culture, or facilities to engage New Yorkers headed into the great outdoors. We are on our way to a strong ADK for the next 100 years.**
>
> **– CHARLES KILBOURNE,** *Board Vice President*

DEAR ADK MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, AND FRIENDS,

Another year of special moments and enduring connection is coming to a close as ADK celebrates its 104th year.

I am proud to be a part of the hard work, dedication, volunteer hours, and passion for the Adirondack Mountain Club that have made 2026 a great year for ADK. You will see many accomplishments highlighted in this annual report, but most importantly, you will see the lives we have touched, from local children to adults experiencing challenging hikes for the first time–all made possible by ADK staff who are the best in the business.

Change is a theme for all of us, nationally and locally, and ADK has continued to respond to change while striving to get ahead of the curve. From strengthening risk management and expanding our programs, to restructuring operations, ADK has continued to meet the moment.

ADK's impact on people, the outdoors, and the recreational spaces we treasure cannot be understated. Because of people like you who believe in this work, stand with us through times of change, and continue to bring passion and vitality to forging a new path, ADK remains vital and more relevant than ever, while true to its historic roots, limbs, and branches.



I look forward to
seeing you on the trails,

Mickey Orta

Mickey Orta
President, Board of Directors

ROOTS, ROCKS, & MUD: STEWARDSHIP WITH ADK

PROTECTING OUR WILDERNESS FROM THE TRAILHEAD TO THE SUMMIT

From the trailhead to the summit, ADK's stewardship team plays a vital role in supporting safe, responsible recreation throughout the High Peaks. In 2026, our summit and trailhead stewards, professional trail crews, and volunteers continued to strengthen our impact on some of New York State's most visited places.



> **Our team has a boots-on-the-ground expertise that allows us to provide a holistic engagement experience. We are part of people's adventure every step of the way, providing resources that wouldn't exist otherwise.**
>
> **– KAYLA WHITE,** *ADK Stewardship Director*

OUR TEAM CONTINUES TO GROW



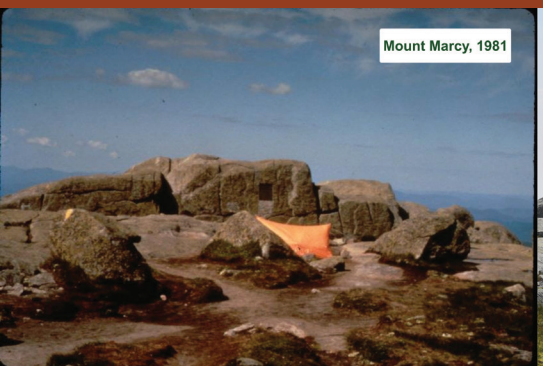
KATIE LETON, SUMMIT STEWARD COORDINATOR

Katie began her work with ADK as a summit steward (2023) and then a botany field technician (2024), evaluating alpine vegetation populations, educating hikers, and advancing boot-on-the-ground conservation efforts on New York's tallest summits. In her first year, she rediscovered the dwarf willow on Algonquin Peak, a plant thought to have been extirpated from the mountain for decades. In 2026, Katie joined ADK's Stewardship team full-time after completing her Bachelor of Science at Colorado College. Each day, Katie demonstrates her dedication to our public lands and to the most vulnerable ecosystem in the Northeast.



ZACH CAMPBELL, TRAILS MANAGER

Beginning with ADK's Volunteer Trail Crew and later joining the Professional Trail Crew, Zach developed a strong foundation in sustainable trail design, construction, maintenance, and stewardship. After moving west to work in conservation, Zach returned to the Adirondacks, where he spent the past seven years honing his skills with Tahawus Trails before returning to ADK in 2026 to manage the trails program where he began his career. With his exceptional skills and degrees in Wilderness Recreation Leadership and Sustainable Energy Management, Zach combines technical trail-building expertise with a deep commitment to public lands stewardship.





PHOTOPOINT MONITORING COMING IN 2027

We know ADK's stewardship of the High Peaks is making a difference—but how do we know? Every five years, our team tracks the recovery of New York State's rarest plants through photopoint monitoring across sixteen summits. Photopoint Monitoring Field Technician use reference photos of the High Peaks going back to the 1960s, replicating the exact location, angle, and direction of each photo to analyze the percentage of vegetation, bare rock, and exposed soil in each shot. The results speak to the overwhelming success of our summit stewards, and we can't wait to see what another year of monitoring will show us!

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1989, the Summit Stewardship Program has reached over three-quarters of a million visitors to the High Peaks Wilderness Complex.

THIS YEAR, A TEAM OF

5 SEASONAL STEWARDS &

21 VOLUNTEERS SPENT

298 COLLECTIVE DAYS ON

NEW YORK'S TALLEST SUMMITS EDUCATING

18,190 PEOPLE

FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER



ROUTE 73 TRAILHEAD STEWARDS EDUCATED

19,016 HIKERS

IN 2026.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP AT THE TRAILHEAD

In 2026, a skilled team of Route 73 trailhead stewards educated 19,016 hikers at five of the most heavily trafficked trailheads along Route 73, providing vital safety information, Leave No Trace education, and trail information before visitors began their adventures. Now in its third year, the Route 73 Trailhead Stewardship Program continues to reach hikers and climbers along this stretch of highway with more than twenty public trailheads.



VOLUNTEERS DRIVE STEWARDSHIP BEYOND THE HIGH PEAKS

Now in its fifth year, the Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewardship Program, run by the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of ADK, demonstrates the power of volunteer-led stewardship to create lasting connections between hikers and the southern Adirondacks. By mid-season, **16 volunteers** contributed **147 hours** over **19 days,** reaching more than **1100 hikers** with trail information, hiking safety guidance, and Leave No Trace education through our Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewardship Program. In addition to Buck Mountain, stewards introduced hikers to new destinations like Pilot Knob, Inman Pond, and Stewart's Ledge. Fostering appreciation for the southern Adirondacks is a key part of this program, which allows hikers to explore new places through a safer, more enjoyable outdoor experience.

> **Stewardship is a process—one we need now more than ever. Our Buck Mountain–Lake George volunteer stewards reach nearly 3000 hikers a year. Those hikers will go on to engage with other stewards at other trailheads, other summits becoming public land stewards themselves.**
>
> **– JIM SCHNEIDER,** *ADK Volunteer & Author of Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondacks and Catskills*

PRO CREW BY THE NUMBERS:

REMOVED
65
BLOWDOWNS

CLEARED
112
DRAINAGES

INSTALLED
220 FT
OF BOG BRIDGING

REHABILITATED
466 FT
OF TRAIL TREAD

BRUSHED IN
370 FT²
OF HIKER-MADE SOCIAL TRAILS

EXPANDING ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING TRAILS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Since completing our first trails project in 1924, ADK's professional and volunteer trail crews have made an impact well beyond the Adirondacks. Completed projects include work in the Catskills, Hudson Valley, Finger Lakes, and beyond. No place in New York State is more than a hundred miles from a trail that has been maintained or restored by ADK staff and volunteers.

With each passing year, the need for climate-resilient trail-building methods becomes increasingly crucial. As major weather events in the Adirondacks intensify and visitor use remains high, trails continue to degrade. ADK staff and volunteers combat these challenges by restoring drainages, clearing blowdown, and improving trail tread to withstand a changing climate.

This year, our crew of **7 seasonal staff** spent **2729 hours** improving access to trails across many types of recreation, including work on mountain biking trails for the Barkeater Trails Alliance (BETA), skiing trails, and hiking trails across the Forest Preserve.

IN 2026, 113 TRAILS VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED 1704 HOURS TO ADK, RESULTING IN:

10 MILES
of trail patrolled

7 SPAN BRIDGES
built

215 FT²
of trail brushed in

30 FT
of trail tread rehabilitated

BUILDING STEWARDS IN EVERYONE



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

For many visitors to the Adirondacks, ADK provides a first introduction to hiking, conservation, and responsible recreation. At the same time, residents in and around the park may never have the same opportunities or awareness. ADK works to help close that gap by creating opportunities for regional students to experience and learn to care for the landscape they call home. Through the Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program: Three Seasons at Heart Lake, students from schools around the North Country learn Leave No Trace principles, local ecology, natural history, and outdoor skills that build confidence through hands-on experiences in the classroom and the natural world. This year, our educators worked with 390 fourth-grade students from 10 different public school districts in the North Country. For some students, this program may be their first time climbing a mountain in the fall, snowshoeing in the winter, or recognizing their home as a special place to explore and care for that belongs to us all.

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACE THROUGH NATURALIST EDUCATION

Adirondack ecosystems, wildlife, and history come alive through ADK's free naturalist education series. Throughout the year, our staff provided **44 naturalist education programs** to **296 participants.** These programs are designed to bring a deeper understanding of the natural world through programs like birding walks and nature writing workshops, to gear repair seminars and guided herpetology hikes at Heart Lake to name a few. Building on a tradition that dates back to Orra Phelps' "School in the Woods" programs of the 1930s, today's courses continue to foster curiosity and a stronger connection to the world around us.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

This year, our expanded team of educators spent **1252 hours** leading skills workshops like Map and Compass and Winter Survival, and guiding hikes and paddles throughout the northern Adirondacks. **12 licensed guides** across 3 departments took **369 participants** into the outdoors on **68 trips**, a 100% increase over 2025. These guides and educators brought their expertise in the field to ADK's workshops, teaching **42 courses** in outdoor skill building to **476 people**. 2026 was also a banner year for improvements in risk management systems and field protocols, equipment resources, and staff training to ensure another safe and successful outdoor season. This work speaks to ADK's legacy. In fact, it was 1957 when we started offering programs to help people develop outdoor skills and enjoy new experiences in the Adirondack backcountry.

> **The goal of our guided trips is for participants to eventually stop hiking with us. We want to build the skills in each person to recreate safely, confidently, and responsibly wherever they go.**
>
> **– DARIA STACY,**
> *Director of Education*



HIKER EDUCATION AT NEW YORK'S BUSIEST BACKCOUNTRY TRAILHEAD

The High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) remains one of ADK's most visible and impactful public-facing facilities, strengthening both visitor safety and sustainable backcountry practices. ADK's mission-critical role at the gateway to the state's highest summits launched with the building of the HPIC in 1973. Every season, our HPIC educators and staff teach Leave No Trace outdoor ethics, engage in valuable conversations about safety and rescue prevention, and work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to communicate land use regulations in the most protected wilderness in the state.

THE YEAR IN GEAR: RESPONSIBLE RECREATION EDITION

10,000
MAPS & GUIDEBOOKS RENTED OR SOLD

553
PAIRS OF SNOWSHOES RENTED

890
BEAR-RESISTANT FOOD CANISTERS RENTED

380
PAIRS OF TRAIL CRAMPONS RENTED

VIRTUAL TRIP PLANNING: PREPARATION AT YOUR PACE

What began as a pilot program has quickly become a unique tool for helping hikers know where to go before they arrive for their Adirondack adventures. In 2026, the High Peaks Information Center staff conducted more than thirty virtual trip planning sessions, providing personalized guidance on route selection, gear recommendations, area regulations, and best backcountry practices that prepare hikers for safer, more sustainable recreation in the Adirondacks and beyond.

HOME AT HEART LAKE

THE ADIRONDAK LOJ

The Adirondak Loj is one of the region's most iconic destinations, offering visitors an immersive Adirondack experience that combines hospitality, education, and outdoor recreation. In 2026, we were thrilled to restore a cherished tradition, operating both the Hungry Hiker trailhead food stand and resuming family-style dinner service for guests in every season. In this and so many other ways, our Heart Lake Hospitality Crew works around the clock to provide a welcoming experience for up to 275 guests on any given day.

42% SOLD OUT WEEKENDS

+5.5% OCCUPANCY GROWTH

10K+ MEALS SERVED THIS YEAR

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Behind every educational program, visitor experience, and stewardship initiative is the infrastructure that makes it all possible. This year, staff focused on improving the safety, resilience, and long-term sustainability of ADK's most important asset, our home at the Heart Lake Program Center.



ADK PROVIDES SUBSIDIZED HOUSING IN LAKE PLACID FOR UP TO 50 SEASONAL AND FULL-TIME STAFF EACH YEAR.

INFRASTRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS AT HEART LAKE

- New septic system and leach field at the High Peaks Information Center to safeguard the water quality of Heart Lake and better support our 24-hour access public restrooms.
- Installing a pay-on-exit parking system at the Hiker Parking Area to streamline arrivals, reduce congestion, and create a more welcoming visitor experience.
- Hazard tree removal and campground improvements, including the completion of a wheelchair accessible lean-to and campsites in the Wilderness Campground.
- Enhanced risk management and safety initiatives across ADK chapters, programs, and facilities.

> **We create a home away from home for people here. Guests return year after year because the memories they make inspire a deep connection to this place, to our mission, and to each other.**
>
> **– ASH VU,**
> *Reservations Specialist*

THE BUSIEST DAY FOR ADK, PRESEASON

In late spring, ADK's maintenance crew coordinates our backcountry "fly-in" for Johns Brook Lodge. A helicopter is chartered to replace propane tanks, bring in shelf-stable supplies for dinner service, and firewood for the Great Room's stove over the course of **43 flights** at **$150 per minute.** With no septic or sewage treatment at the lodge, this also means replacing waste barrels. In 2026, ADK flew **1815 lbs** of human waste out of the Johns Brook Valley—keeping this waste out of the backcountry.



> **Our work won't be done until everyone who visits this place becomes a steward of it, and that wouldn't be possible without the 90-year legacy of boots-on-the-ground outreach that Heart Lake provides.**
>
> **– TOM MANITTA,** *Sr. Director of Facilities & Programs*



JOHNS BROOK LODGE

3.5 miles into the heart of the High Peaks Wilderness, Johns Brook Lodge is the only full-service backcountry lodge in New York State. For over a century, Johns Brook Lodge has provided a gateway to adventure and community. Each season, hikers, families, and outdoor enthusiasts gather at the lodge to experience the Adirondacks in a way that few places can provide. Through careful stewardship and dedication, our lodge staff makes this experience possible for generations of passionate recreationists.

21% OCCUPANCY GROWTH

135 RESERVATIONS MADE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 12

A STATEWIDE CONSTITUENCY

TURNING PASSION INTO ACTION

Every year, ADK members and supporters demonstrate that advocacy is one of the most powerful tools for protecting New York State's public lands and waters. In 2026, more than **6000 letters** were sent to elected officials and agency leaders, helping to ensure that the Adirondacks and Catskills remained a priority in legislative and budget decisions.

POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

Our advocacy successes depend on collaboration. Through the Forest Preserve Summit, environmental coalitions, and statewide campaigns, ADK worked alongside dozens of other organizations, municipalities, and community leaders to protect the wild places we all share. For the first time, the annual Forest Preserve Summit included participation from the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, providing advocates a direct opportunity to discuss stewardship priorities and the impact of public funding investments.

STRENGTHENING STEWARDSHIP ACROSS STATE PARKS

Working alongside **more than fifty organizations** at the annual Forest Preserve Summit, ADK planned to secure continued investment in the protection of New York's public lands. The coalition successfully advocated to retain **$10 million in dedicated funding** for the Catskills and Adirondack Forest Preserve, supporting visitor education, trail stewardship, and sustainable recreation infrastructure. The coalition continues to champion support for visitor centers, scientific monitoring, and accessibility throughout both parks.

In 2027, the Adirondack Mountain Club's

FIRST-EVER DEDICATED LOBBY DAY

will give our members, partners, and friends a direct voice in shaping the future of New York's public lands.

FROM ADVOCACY TO IMPACT

ADK continued its longstanding role as a voice for conservation and responsible recreation in Albany. During the legislative session, our team supported several measures that advanced climate resilience, water quality protection, renewable energy development, recycling infrastructure, and safer transportation for outdoor recreationists.

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY ADK IN 2026

- Winter Road Maintenance Data Collection for Water Protection (S10094)
- Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act (S6570)
- Climate Resilient New York Act (S3590)
- Plastic Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S1464)
- Safe Passing Legislation for Pedestrians and Cyclists (S1665)
- Road Salt Reduction Council (S676)

CHAPTERS

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO THE OUTDOORS

Twenty-one chapters strong—ADK's almost two-dozen regional chapters remain the foundation of our community and its statewide outreach, creating opportunities for people to explore the outdoors, build connections, and develop a lifelong stewardship ethic. Led entirely by volunteers, chapters organized 963 outings and counting this year, ranging from hikes, paddles, and nordic ski trips to educational programs, trail stewardship, and community gatherings.

Across New York and New Jersey, 236 volunteer leaders shared their time, expertise, and passion for the outdoors, introducing participants to new places and skills. From the High Peaks and Catskills to local parks, waterways, and community trails, chapter volunteers helped make outdoor recreation more welcoming for people of all ages and experience levels.

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS LED OUTINGS THROUGHOUT:

- Adirondack High Peaks
- Central Adirondacks
- Lake George Region
- Northern Adirondacks
- Catskills
- Finger Lakes
- Hudson Valley
- Capital District
- Central New York
- Genesee Valley
- Mohawk Valley
- Western New York
- New Jersey

ADK'S MOST ACTIVE CHAPTERS IN 2026:

CHAPTER	OUTINGS & EVENTS
Genesee Valley	175
Mid-Hudson	125
North Jersey Ramapo	123
Cold River	100
Albany-Schenectady	83
Onondaga	63
Glens Falls-Saratoga	63
Niagara Frontier	49

BIG OUTINGS, BIGGER CONNECTIONS

ADK's signature outings continue to bring members together from across the northeast.

CYCLE OUTING

32 members hosted at North Country Community College

PADDLE OUTING

Celebrating its 44th year, 157 paddlers took to the water participating in up to 10 trips each day around the St. Regis Canoe Wilderness

FALL OUTING

50 guided hikes, paddles, tours, and educational programs for over 200 ADK members hosted at the Saranac Village Young Life Camp

ADK TAKES THE RUNWAY

This May, the Genesee Valley Chapter brought it to the runway for an Adirondack-inspired fashion show. Now in its fourth year, the ADK Fashion Show featured sixteen volunteer models, five outdoor retail partners, and a talented committee that guided every detail, bringing together members, supporters, and the Rochester community for an evening of fun and connection. Showcasing clothing and gear designed for life in the outdoors, the event celebrated the adventurous and generous spirit that unites ADK members while raising support for Connect Rochester through this creative new tradition.





HUDSON RIVER HIGHLIGHTS

The Mid-Hudson Chapter of ADK enjoyed a memorable paddle from Cold Spring to Bannerman's Castle and Plum Point, taking advantage of the calm conditions on the Hudson. Along the way, participants were treated to sightings of bald eagles, cormorants, herons, and osprey, capping off a day of beautiful scenery and Chapter camaraderie that makes our outings so rewarding.



OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO SAFE ADVENTURE

Every successful ADK outing begins with a volunteer leader willing to share their time, experience, and love for the outdoors. This year, ADK staff worked closely with chapters to make significant updates to our Outings Leadership Guide (OLG), strengthening risk management and a culture of safety for the hundreds of volunteer-led trips each year. Through a series of one-on-one meetings with Chapter leadership, recreation-specific focus groups, and several surveys, members helped shape these updates to ensure that chapter outings are welcoming, inclusive, and safe for all.

Once published, the revised guide will reflect the collective wisdom of the people who lead ADK adventures every week, and we are deeply grateful to our volunteers for all they do to help others build confidence outdoors. Their dedication continues to inspire new adventures, strengthening our community, and forming lasting connections with ADK's mission and each other.

2025 FINANCIALS

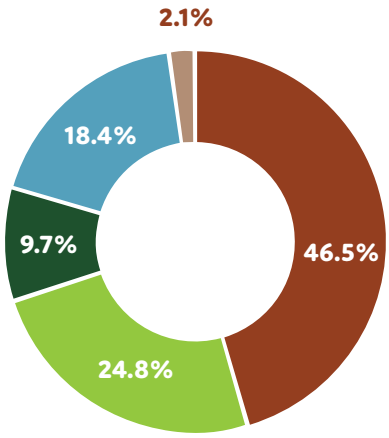
WE HOPE YOU CAN SEE IN THIS REPORT ALL OF THE MANY WAYS YOUR SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT IN ADK MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

REVENUE OPERATING

- Program Services: $2,684,833
- Contributions: $1,429,880
- Membership Dues: $559,251
- Grants & Contracts: $1,062,695
- Special Events: $119,520

Other Sources: ($84,310); -1/5% net total

TOTAL REVENUE & GAINS: $5,771,869

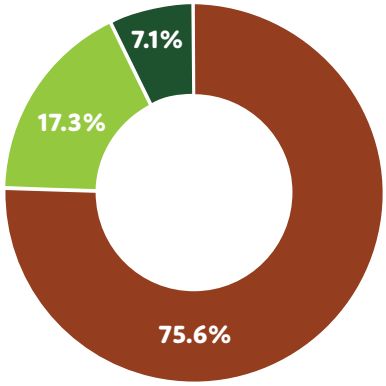


PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Program Services: $4,919,220
- Mgmt & General: $1,124,902
- Fundraising: $459,801

TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES: 1,584,703

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES: $6,503,932



OTHER INCOME — Investment Return: $324,789 | Stock Sales: $2,500

**Financial information regarding 2026 available upon request. Audited 2025 financials shown, while ADK annual report accomplishments reflect the work ADK did in 2026*

ADK SENDS A HEARTFUL THANK YOU

to Erik Gregory and Kate Hacker who both retired from their leadership roles on ADK's Board of Directors this year. We thank you, Erik and Kate, for your years of dedication, passion, and countless volunteer hours that have helped make ADK what it is today.



EVERY STEP STARTS WITH YOU

The stories and accomplishments of 2026 reflect a year of meaningful change and progress for ADK. Since I started at ADK in mid-2025, the focus has been on strengthening and fortifying ADK's financial health, while we work hard to expand opportunities for people to experience the Adirondacks. This meant 2026 brought both challenges and important steps forward. We are proud of what we have accomplished together through the rough waters of 2025, and we thank the members, volunteers, staff, chapters, and supporters who stood by ADK. As we look to the year ahead, we carry that momentum forward with a renewed commitment to ADK's mission and to the future of the Adirondacks.



Thank you,

Cortney Koenig Worrall

Cortney Koenig Worrall
Executive Director



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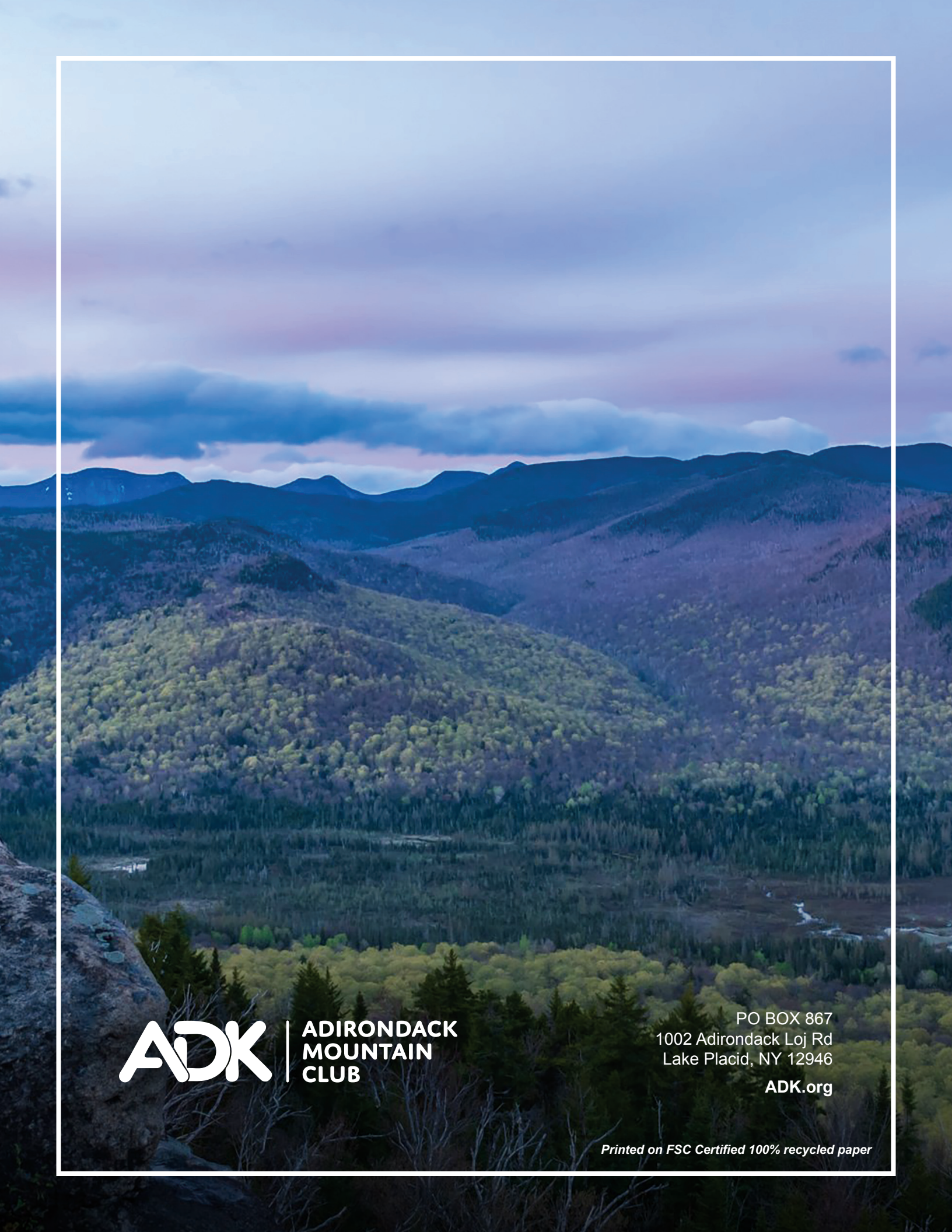
Richard Ross
Director

TO SUPPORT ADK TODAY

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