ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Adirondack Mountain Club

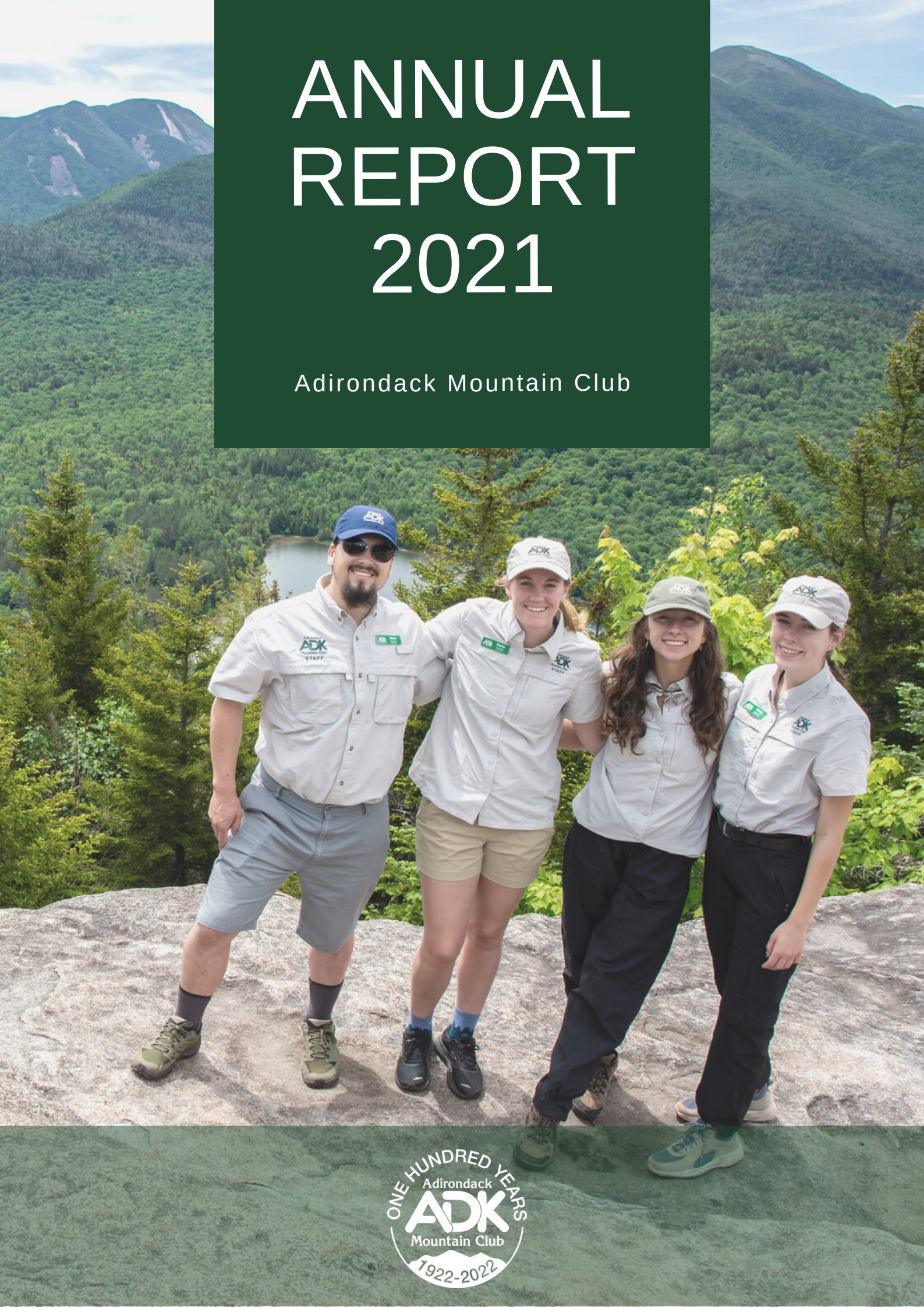


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THANK YOU

FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Adirondack Mountain Club is 100 years old. Let that sink in. Over a century, this organization has fought to protect the Forest Preserve, put educators on mountaintops, built new and better trails in the backcountry, and much, much more. What started as a small gathering above the New York City Abercrombie & Fitch in 1922 has grown into an organization with influence across New York State from the legislature to the summit of Mt. Marcy.

We couldn't have done it without the constant support of our members, donors, staff, and volunteers—you.

This annual report is a summary of all that we are thankful for in 2021. We asked for your support to help us build better trails, educate hikers about alpine vegetation, and teach more children about the outdoors, and you answered the call. With a full summer staff and a return of volunteer programs, we were able to increase our impact across all aspects of the organization, including:

- Updating and expanding our alpine plant monitoring program
- Recording over 7,500 hours of trail work by volunteers
- Teaching 593 4th graders in our school outreach program
- Acquiring a new outreach location: Cascade Ski Center
- Successfully leading a campaign for increased Forest Preserve funding

All this and more will continue in 2022. Additionally, we have much to be excited about heading into our second century as an organization. This year, we will open Cascade Ski Center under our name, continue building a new sustainable trail up Mt Jo, celebrate our centennial, and more.

Every step we take as an organization is made possible by your support. Despite the challenges of the last two years, your backing has allowed us to continue increasing our impact as we work to protect the Adirondacks through education and a statewide community of stewards. With support like this, we are excited about all that ADK can do in 2022 and beyond.

With gratitude,

Tom Andrews
President



Michael Barrett
Executive Director





Photo: Brendan Wiltse



CELEBRATING DONORS

Karim Becker, Development Director

$1,286,810

fundraising total

3,761

individual donors in 2021

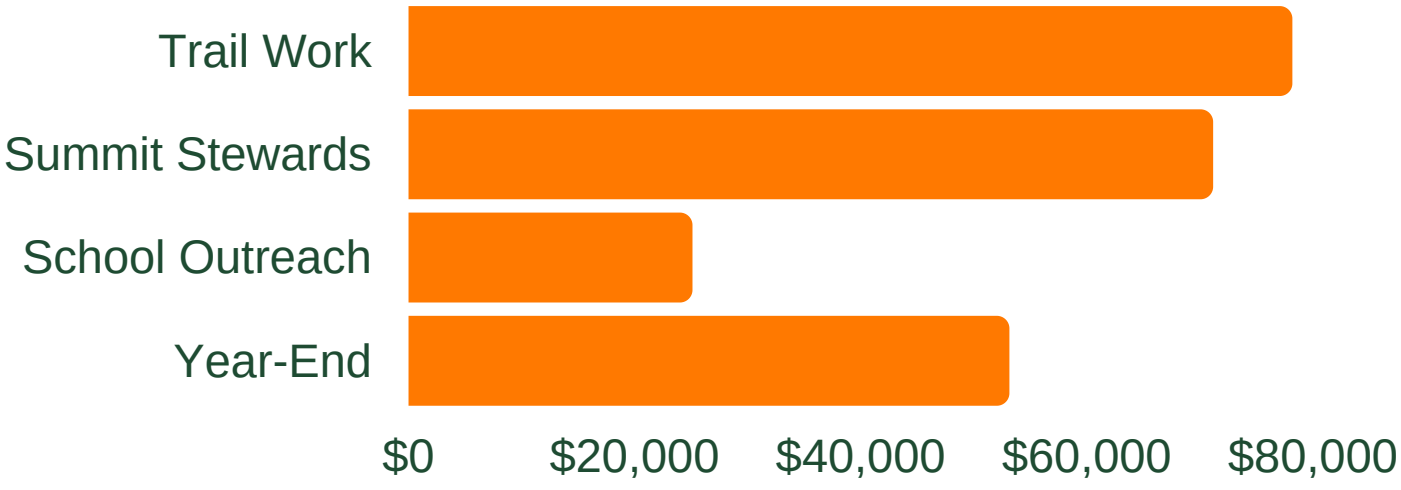
30%

from outside of New York State

422

donations made with a purchase

Campaign Totals





BUILDING BETTER TRAILS

Charlotte Staats, Trails Manager

Last year saw a return to normalcy for ADK's trails program. After a limited 2020, volunteers and professional staff returned in force to continue building sustainable, climate-resilient trails in the Adirondack Park.

Our volunteer-led Adopt a Lean-to and Trail Steward Programs saw excellent numbers in 2021, with 281 volunteers taking care of 201 lean-tos and 98 trails. At the end of the year, each of these programs also saw major change: Hilary Moynihan and Herb Coles, who volunteered to manage each of these programs respectively, stepped down after many, many years of service. I would like to take a moment to thank them both, and to welcome Tom Hart and Carla Denn as the new volunteer coordinators for these important stewardship efforts.

In staff-led programming, our 15 staff and 205 volunteers spent 7,771 hours completing projects. Much of this work was made possible thanks to donations and support from the Adirondack 46ers and The Waterman Fund.

Perhaps the most exciting project last year was the reconstruction of the Mt Jo Long Trail, which broke ground over the summer thanks to support from donors. After the new route was flagged, crews spent several months clearing the first half and installing sustainable trail features, including turnpikes and rock staircases.

This project has received broad support from not only donors, but also the local community. I am pleased to report that the Mt Jo Long Trail project received a $50,000 Local Enhancement & Advancement Fund (LEAF) grant from the Town of North Elba, which will help fund work for the next two years. It is support like this that ensures that ADK is able to continue building better trails in the Adirondack Park and elsewhere in New York State.



Photo: Seth Jones



MOUNTAINTOP EDUCATION

Kayla White, Stewardship Manager

In its 32nd year, the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program adapted and continued to protect the alpine ecosystem while expanding its outreach through new avenues. This included reaching 28,514 hikers, bringing the program's total contacts to 613,998.

Our five full-time summit stewards, one Photopoint Monitoring Field Tech, three fall stewards and 29 volunteers all played a crucial role in educating hikers about New York's alpine zone while also supporting two exciting expansions for the program: increased photopoint monitoring and a new outreach partnership on Hurricane Mountain.

Photopoint monitoring has been a part of the Summit Stewardship Program since 1999. By creating a "timeline" of images showing the same spot over many years, we are able to quantify the correlation between hiker trampling, vegetation growth and persistence, and hiker education and outreach. In 2021 we revamped the project by not only resampling, analyzing, and archiving our 59 established photopoints, but also updating its design and scope. As a part of this, we started adding 100 new photopoints to the analysis. We will continue building out this photo monitoring system so that it is straightforward to maintain, provides accessible data, and is easily transferrable to other locations and partner organizations.

As we worked on photopoint monitoring, we also expanded our impact by partnering with Friends of Hurricane Mountain to manage the Hurricane Fire Tower Stewardship Program. As a family-friendly hike and a shorter alternative to many high peaks, Hurricane Mountain presented an excellent opportunity for us to expand our outreach to more novice outdoor recreators. While up there, our stewards taught hikers about backcountry preparedness, safety, and fire tower history. We educated 3,391 hikers on Hurricane which contributed 12% of our total contact numbers for the year. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our outreach as we work to protect New York's alpine habitat for future generations.

28,514

hikers educated by summit stewards in 2021



Photo: Ben Brosseau



7,771

hours of trail work
completed by volunteers



“I support ADK because I derive pleasure, satisfaction, and comfort in knowing that ADK works hard—through education and advocacy—to protect New York’s remaining wild lands from ever-growing pressures.”

— Jennifer
ADK member and donor

581

4th graders participated
in our school outreach
programs





INSPIRING 4TH GRADERS

Maggie Newell, Outreach Coordinator

Promoting responsible recreation, encouraging a healthy lifestyle, increasing environmental literacy, and helping students gain a tangible connection to the Adirondack Park: these are the goals ADK has pursued with fourth grade students for the last 18 years of Marie L Haberl School Outreach Program: Three Seasons at Heart Lake.

This program provides a place-based connection for the future environmental stewards of our region and beyond. It is thanks to support from donors that we are able to offer this program for free so that as many students as possible can participate.

Traditionally an in-person program, we expanded it in 2020 to include a digital component called Bringing Heart Lake to Your Backyard. The program consists of five videos each season that show natural wonders and accompanying nature journals and activities that encourage students to explore the outdoors wherever they are. Between this new outreach and our existing program, we reached 581 fourth graders last school year—365 from past participants and 216 from new schools and homeschool families. This included students from the local community and across the Northeast.

Amidst the mounting pressures facing our local and global environment, it is crucial that we continue to provide the next generation with significant outdoor experiences that help them fall in love with the natural world. School outreach is a powerful tool for ADK, as it allows us to instill an outdoor ethic in the next generation from an early age. Every minute that we spend with kids teaching them about snowshoeing, spring growth, and fall foliage is a step towards a better future for New York's public lands and waters, and our planet as a whole.



Photo: Ben Brosseau

"For some of our students, this program is an introduction to wilderness exploration. For others, it is an extension of what they already know. ***All of our students are gaining a greater love of the outdoors****, a sense of the need to protect our wild areas, and the desire to explore."*

— Ms. Leblanc
Saranac Lake Central School District

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

From teaching children about Leave No Trace to educating hikers on mountaintops, we couldn't do what we do without the support of donors like you. In recognition of those who have gone above and beyond to support our mission, we would like to take a moment to thank the following individuals, chapters, and organizations, who all made commitments of $2,500 or more last year.

Individuals

Anonymous (3)

Benjamin and Theresa Conway

Carolyn and Eugene Kaczka

Dan and Alicia Cunningham

Edward Fletcher and Lynne Croucher

Erik and Elaine Gregory

Evelyn Rinella

Heather Miller

J. Glans & Dr. L. Perkins

Jennifer and Jason Ryan

John and Karen Beekley

John Linderman

John Swanson

Karen and Jeffrey Ross

Kate and Richard Hacker

Katherine and Peter Wyckoff

Kevin and Sharon Todd

L. John Van Norden

Lee Maschler

Michael and Janice Douglass

Michael Suleski

Mr. Arthur Haberl

Natalia Chefer and Joel Tompkins

Nicholas and Tracie Dereszynski

Nina Bogosian Quigley & Matthew Quigley

Peter and Patty Paine

Phillip Falconer

Richard and Lisa Reichman

Sanne Kure-Jensen

Scott and Barbara Renninger

Thomas Rosato

William Barber

Chapters

Adirondak Loj Chapter

Genesee Valley Chapter

Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter

Keene Valley Chapter

Susquehanna Chapter

Organizations & Corporations

Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc

Adirondack Foundation #507 Fund for High Peaks Stewardship

Armstrong Foundation

Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

Chapel Hill Foundation, Inc.

Colgate

Eastern Mountain Sports

JP Morgan Chase Foundation

L.L. Bean

Lawrence I. and Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund

Miller Family Charitable Trust

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Patagonia Environmental Programs

The Nature Conservancy

Van Bortel Motorcar

STAFF CHANGES

Departures

Rachel Karp, Director of North Country Operations
Hired by the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director after 16 years with ADK.



Andrew Hamlin, Trails Coordinator
Hired by Tahawus Trails LLC after 14 years with ADK.

Bruce Katz, Chief Financial Officer



Jules Greiner, Membership Director

Arrivals/Promotions



Charlotte Staats, Trails Manager
Rejoined ADK after 2 years with the Adirondack Council; former trail crew member and boss.



Erin Trombley, Digital Marketing Coordinator
Transitioned to communications department after 6 years in development.



Karim Becker, Development Director
Joined ADK from Planned Parenthood.



Julia Goren, Deputy Executive Director
Rejoined ADK after 3 years with the Adirondack Council; former Education Director and Summit Steward Coordinator.

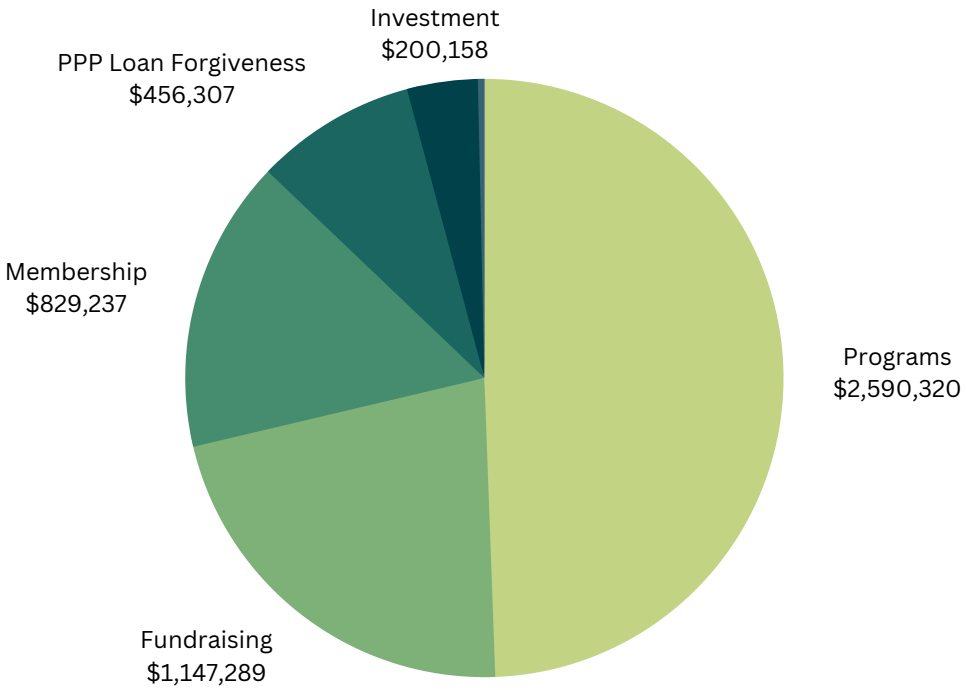


Photo: Brendan Wiltse

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

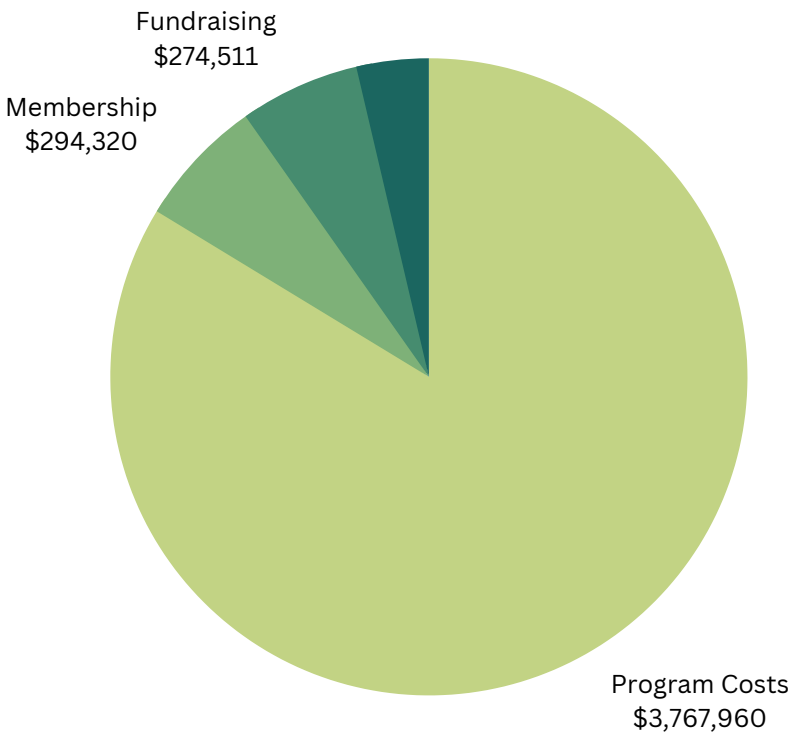
Revenue:

$5,107,814



Expense:

$4,501,760



The Adirondack Mountain Club is a private nonprofit 501(c) 3 registered New York State charity. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.