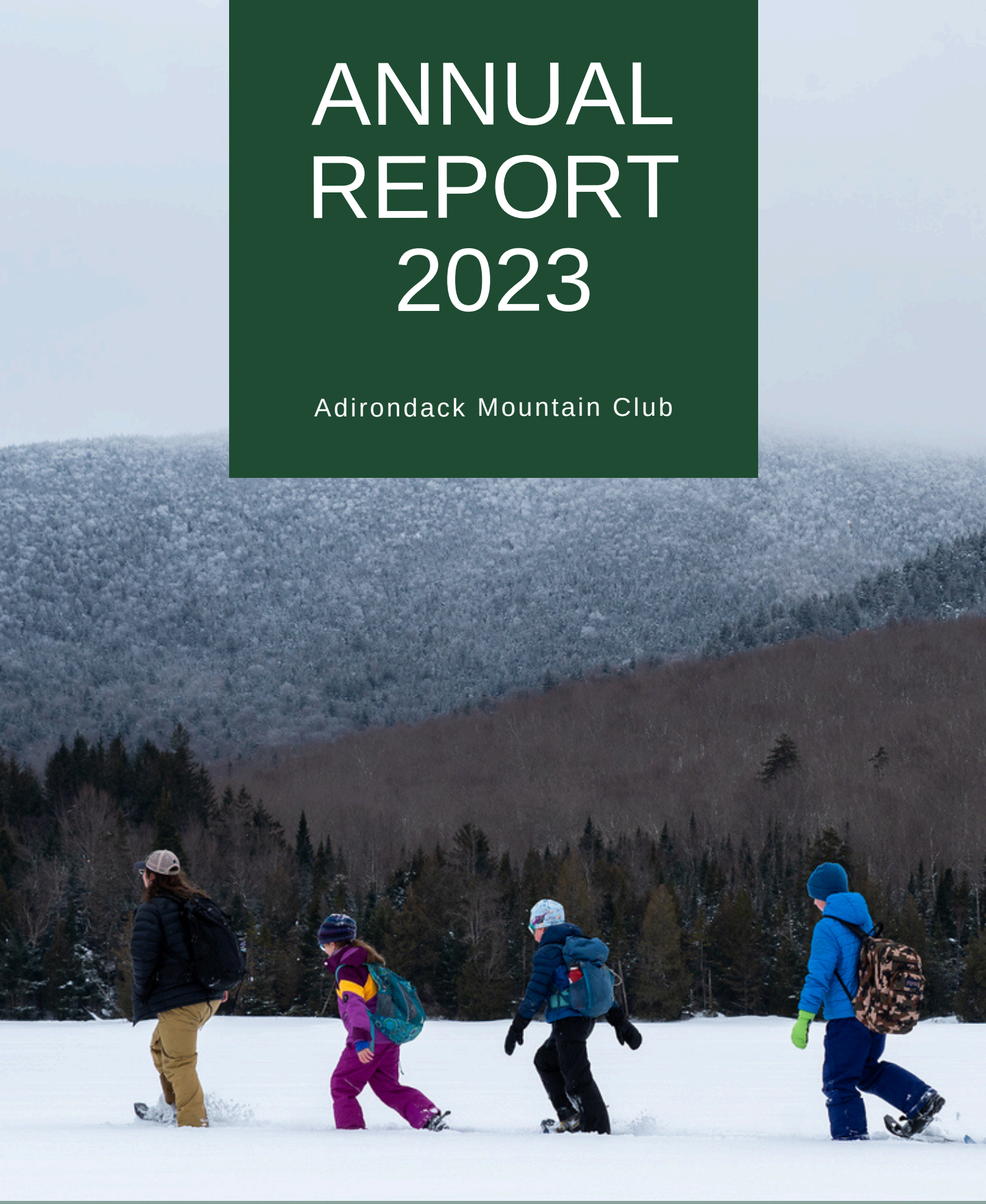
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Adirondack Mountain Club



ONE HUNDRED YEARS
Adirondack
ADK
Mountain Club
1922-2022

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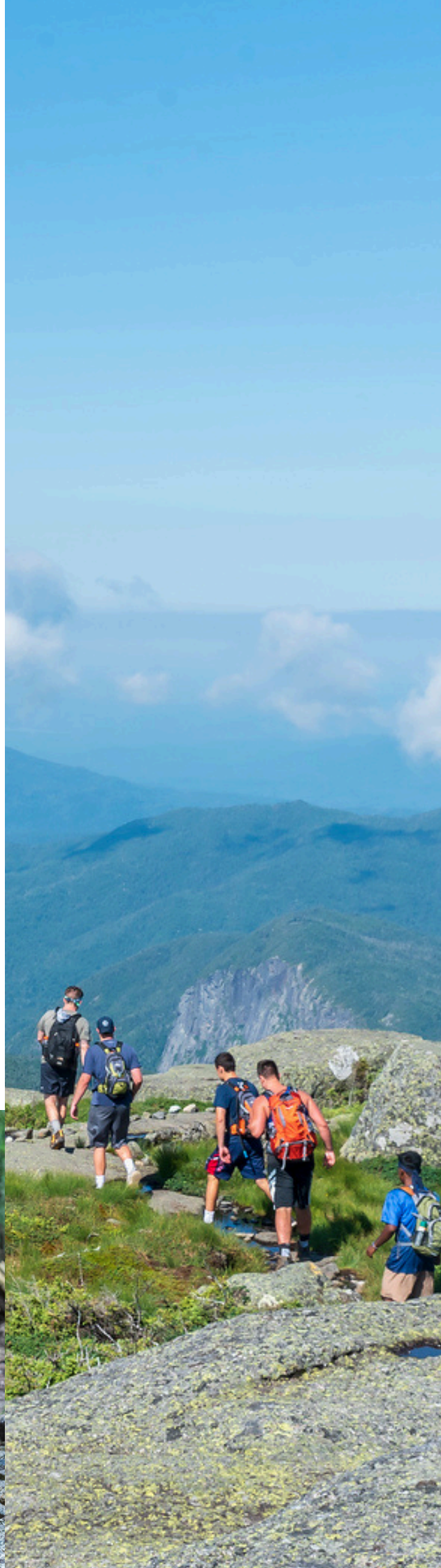



Photo: Brendan Wiltse

THANK YOU

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends of the Adirondack Mountain Club,

We are thrilled to share with you the highlights of ADK's successes in 2023. Together, we've made significant strides in advancing our mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation, protect the wild lands and waters we cherish, and ensure that these special places are accessible to all.

One of the year's most notable achievements has been securing dedicated funding for the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves for the second year in a row. This would not have been possible without the support of our friends in the state legislature and the governor's office. Their continued commitment to preserving these lands reflects the importance of protecting New York's natural resources for future generations. This dedicated funding will ensure that we can continue to manage high-use areas effectively, address infrastructure needs, and protect the wilderness character of the Forest Preserves.

Expanding access to the outdoors has always been at the heart of the Adirondack Mountain Club's mission. By partnering with local organizations and community leaders, we've developed programs that provide opportunities for individuals and families who have historically faced barriers to accessing the wilderness. These initiatives are part of our ongoing commitment to making the outdoors more inclusive and ensuring that everyone can enjoy the physical and mental health benefits that time spent in nature offers.

We've also focused on improving and maintaining the trails that allow so many to explore the Adirondacks. This year, we completed the construction of a new, sustainable trail up Mt. Jo. We are proud of this accomplishment and grateful to all the volunteers and staff who contributed their time and expertise to this project.

Our school outreach program, *Three Seasons at Heart Lake*, has also seen exciting growth. This year, we launched an expansion specifically geared toward homeschool families, bringing the joy of outdoor exploration to an even wider audience. The program has been met with enthusiasm, and we look forward to continuing to foster the next generation of environmental stewards through hands-on learning and a deep connection with the natural world.

These accomplishments were made possible by your unwavering support and dedication to ADK's mission. Together, we will continue to protect the lands we love, expand access to the outdoors, and inspire new generations to become advocates for these wild places.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

With gratitude,
Adirondack Mountain Club



CELEBRATING DONORS

Karim Becker, Development Director

$1,977,017

fundraising total

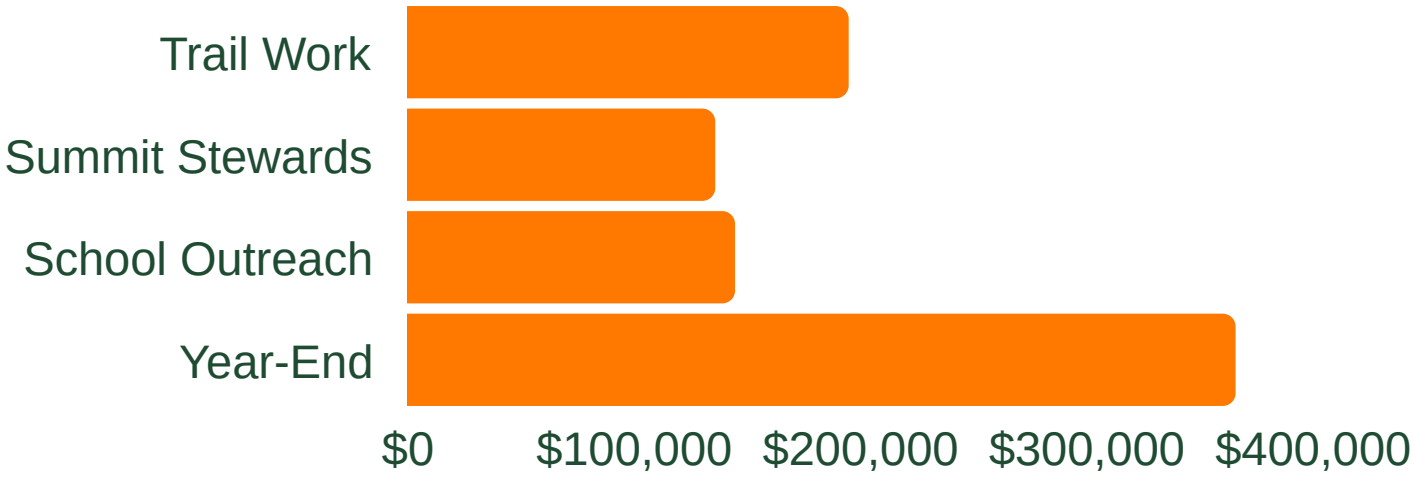
3063

individual donors in 2023

35%

from outside of New York State

Campaign Totals





MOUNT JO LONG TRAIL OPENS

Charlotte Staats, Trails Director

After three years of work by professional and volunteer crews, we're excited to announce the opening of the new sustainable Long Trail on Mount Jo. Built to improve hiker safety and environmental sustainability, the new trail travels 1.5 miles to the summit of Mount Jo, connecting visitors to one of the most iconic views in the Adirondack Park.

Welcoming over 15,000 hikers every year, Mount Jo is a popular hike for families and first time recreators. It serves as a classroom for ADK's Three Seasons at Heart Lake Program.

After assessment in 2020, it was deemed that one of the two approaches to the summit—the Long Trail—had deteriorated beyond repair. A new route was designed using sustainable features to ensure that it could withstand erosion caused by foot traffic and climate change. Over the course of three years, ADK saw major support for the project from volunteers, donors, and the local community, including a $50,000 North Elba Local Enhancement and Advancement Fund grant in 2021.



Photo: Ben Brosseau



Photo: Ben Brosseau



DWARF WILLOW DISCOVERY

Liam Ebner, Summit Steward Coordinator

The Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program discovered a population of dwarf willow (*Salix herbacea*), an extremely rare alpine plant species in New York, on the summit of Algonquin Peak. Summit steward Katie Leton identified the plant during a botany survey on August 15. Last documented on Algonquin in 1980, it was since believed extirpated from the mountain, limiting the extent of dwarf willow in the Adirondacks to a single population on Mount Marcy.

One of the smallest woody plants in the world, dwarf willow is typically between 0.5 and 5 cm tall with branches that grow just underground forming open mats. The leaves are rounded and green with paler undersides and, like all willows, it presents small flowers in tight clusters called catkins. Though it is widespread globally, it is exceedingly rare in New York and considered critically imperiled and at risk of extirpation from the state.

This small plant delivered a big message: New York's alpine zone is continuing to recover. This discovery underscores the importance of both educational outreach on summits, which protects alpine plants, and continued research I am incredibly proud of Katie and our summit steward team for making such a historic discovery.

"In the United States, *Salix herbacea* is only known from highest mountain regions of Maine, New Hampshire, and New York," said Tim Howard, Director of Science at the New York Natural Heritage Program. "Rediscovery of this elusive species on Algonquin shows that small populations of cryptic species can persist in small, isolated habitats such as the High Peaks alpine zone. We are excited and encouraged by this discovery. Congratulations and kudos for this amazing find!"

"For over thirty years, the Summit Stewardship Program has been the guardian of and advocate for this very fragile alpine plant community. This new discovery of dwarf willow is evidence of how education can change behaviors for powerful conservation outcomes. It's encouraging to know that we can make a difference."

— Peg Olsen
Adirondack Director of The Nature Conservancy



Photo: Julia Goren



7972

hours of trail work
completed by volunteers



“I support ADK because of the work that they do—school programs, trail building, summit stewardship. We need organizations like ADK to protect our public lands as the impacts of climate change become increasingly prevalent.”

— Robert
ADK member and donor

320

4th graders participated in our school outreach programs





HOMESCHOOL IN THE WOODS

Eliza Phillips, Outreach Coordinator

In 2023, ADK launched a new education program: Homeschool in the Woods. It is a place-based, hands-on, and student-led program for homeschoolers ages 5 to 12 from all over the North Country and Adirondack Park.

We first connected with the homeschool community in 2020, while schools were doing remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ADK educators adapted the curriculum from Three Seasons at Heart Lake, ADK's fourth-grade school outreach program, into a virtual program to continue engaging students with the outdoors while everyone was out of the classroom and sticking closer to home. With the help of Sunita Halasz, co-coordinator of North Country Homeschooling, ADK was able to share this modified program—dubbed "Bringing Heart Lake to Your Backyard"—with the families involved in North Country Homeschooling, as well. Over thirty homeschool families have incorporated this program into their at-home learning.

ADK's education team realized, however, there was still a large homeschool community in our area that we were not reaching with our youth outreach and began exploring ways to support them. In May 2023, ADK ran its first-ever homeschool-specific program. Since that first day, ADK has run two three-week Homeschool in the Woods sessions and is gearing up for a third expanded session this fall. Each session has a theme that ties the classes together and introduces topics often taught in the classroom through inquiry and experiential learning. The program strives to deepen students' connection to the Adirondack Park, each other, and the outdoors while supporting New York State Department of Education curriculum.

ADK's program, and others like it, are beneficial to homeschool families because they give students the opportunity to get to know each other and grow a learning community over several classes.



Photo: Seth Jones

"Eliza and helpers did a great job engaging kids and getting on their level. Kids were interacting and asking questions and participating well. These classes were very worthwhile, with great standalone topics, regardless of what we are doing at home."

— Parent of a student in the program

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

From building sustainable trail to instilling a sense of place in North Country children, 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 $5000 or more last year.

Individuals

John Beekley

Estate of Robert A. Betzler

Natalia Chefer

Arthur Haberl

Heather and Bruce Lane

Paul Leinwand

Leland and Mary Loose

Nina and Matthew Quigley

Lisa and Richard Reichman

Evelyn Rinella

Thomas M. Rosato

Karen and Jeffrey Ross

Steve Scala

Estate of Barbara M. Smith

Hugh N. Zimmerman

Chapters

Adirondak Loj

Glens Falls-Saratoga

Organizations, Foundations, & Corporations

Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc

Adirondack Foundation

Anonymous Family Foundation

Bob 'o Link Hill

Chapel Hill Foundation, Inc.

Eastern Mountain Sports, Inc.

Grace Hudowalski Charitable Trust

Lane Family Fund of Community Foundation of Tompkins County

LEAF Grant c/o Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, Inc

Miller Family Charitable Trust

Nine Pin Ciderworks, LLC

Lawrence I. and Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund

Helen and Ritter Shumway Foundation

Marilyn Lichtman Foundation

Paul Liebman Foundation

Rochester Area Community Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Van Bortel Motorcar

Vermont Community Foundation

Waterman Fund, Inc.

Weatherup Family Foundation

Wright Family Foundation

ADK LAUNCHES NEW CONSIGNMENT PROGRAM

ADK's consignment program reduces barriers to accessing the outdoors and helps visitors get equipped for safe, responsible, and fun adventures.





236

Gear items rehomed through our consignment program at Cascade Welcome Center

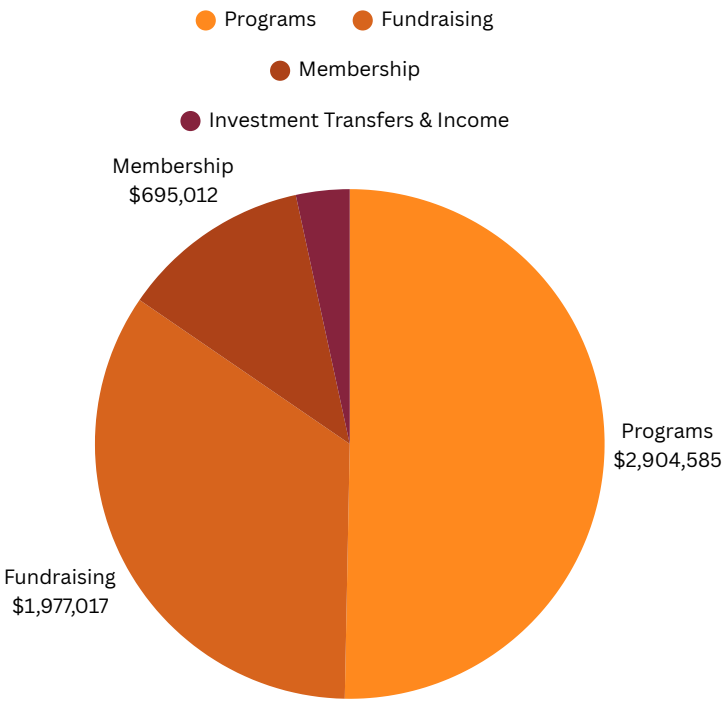
Learn more at **ADK.org/cascade-welcome-center**



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

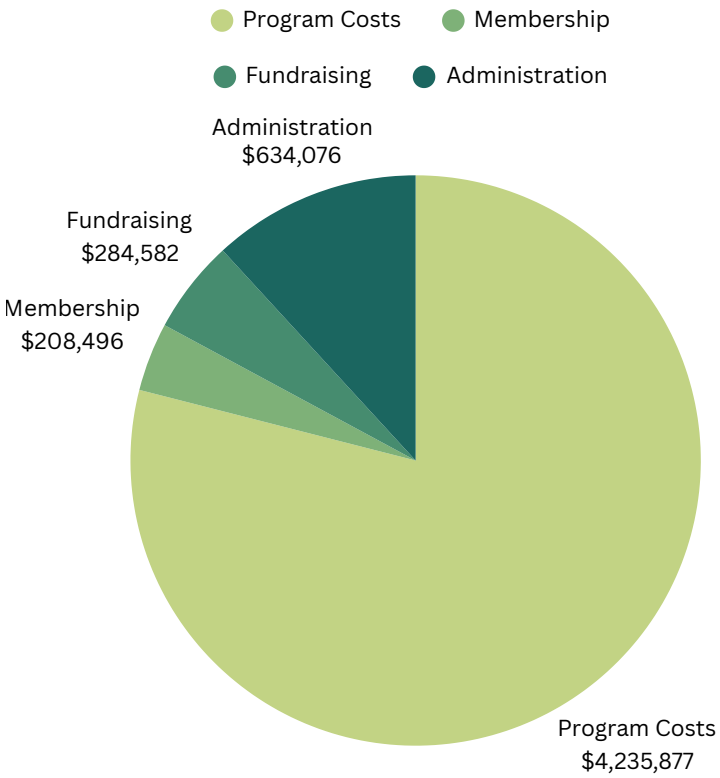
Revenue:

$5,773,070



Expense:

$5,363,031



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.