



# APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY®

## Georgia Appalachian Trail License Plate Grant Program Past Grantees and Projects

Since 2013, the sale of Georgia A.T. specialty tags has allowed for \$567,308 in Georgia A.T. License Plate Grants. We are grateful to our partners who have participated in this grant program, helping to make the Appalachian Trail and the countryside it traverses the best it can be. Below, you'll find a list of each year's grant recipients, accompanied by a brief description of their project(s).

### **2023: \$124,968 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
  - Support Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network
  - Support the salary of 3 ATC Ridgerunners on the A.T. in Georgia
- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Support the Three Forks Bridge replacement
- Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards: Support A.T. Wilderness and Training Outreach
- Len Foot Hike Inn: Support the Place-based Service- learning at the Hike Inn
- Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
  - Support GATC members obtaining Wilderness First Aid certificates
  - Support GATC Sawyer and First Aid certificates
  - Support GATC's A.T. Kick Off event at the beginning of the thru hiker season
  - Support the purchase of GATC rock tools
  - Support the GATC Trail Skills workshop, a 2-day event aimed at sharpening trail maintenance skills
  - Support the GATC's Start Smart video
  - Support GATC's tool cache
  - Support GATC's National Trails Day
  - Supporting GATC's Outreach Program that works to connect disadvantaged youth to the outdoors through hikes at the Len Foote Hike Inn

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### **2022: \$131,078 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
  - Support the Children's Forest Network Forest for Every Classroom Program – Summit for Educators
  - Support the Children's Forest Network Next Generation Forest Ambassador's Youth Summit
  - Support the salary of 2 ATC Ridgerunners on the A.T. in Georgia
- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest:
  - Fund a Wilderness/Trail Technician to increase monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA.
  - Support Trailhead improvements at parking lot

- Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards: Support the salary of a Program/Community Engagement Coordinator helping with the Children's Forest Network
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
    - Support a map and video at the A.T. Museum at Amicalola Falls State Park
    - Support program aimed at connecting youth, minority groups, and disadvantaged populations with nature/outdoors
    - Support the Woman's Trail Summit
    - Support the GATC Rock Crew
    - Support the GATC Trail Skills workshop, a 2 day event aimed at sharpening trail maintenance skills
    - Purchase Silky saws for Ridgerunners and Trail Ambassadors
    - Support GATC Booth display upgrades
    - Support the 2023 Ridgerunner (Short and long season) along with the Caretaker program
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**2021: \$64,786 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
    - Support the NextGen Forest Ambassador program for GA youth to foster their understanding of and appreciation for public lands in their communities, including the Appalachian Trail.
    - Install four virtual information kiosks at Neel Gap, Springer Mountain parking area, and at the Amicalola Falls State Park lodge and visitors center to provide A.T. visitor information.
  - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Fund a Wilderness/Trail Technician to increase monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA.
  - Clayton, GA: Install an A.T. information kiosk in downtown Clayton, GA
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
    - Support for GATC's volunteer Trail Ambassador program.
    - Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers.
    - Support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia.
    - Trail Skills Workshop for A.T. Section Maintainers in Georgia.
    - Purchase rock tools for maintenance activities on the A.T. in Georgia.
    - Provide funds to update the A.T. exhibit, museum and Interpretive Center at the new Amicalola Falls State Park visitor center.
    - Sawyer Certification Class for club volunteers
  - Len Foote Hike Inn: Support for a 2022 youth service-learning trip to stay at the Hike Inn and perform trail work on the A.T.
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**2020: \$53,642 granted to support projects support projects in the state of Georgia**

- North Georgia Mountains Authority: Conceptual plan for renovating and improving the outdoor education area at the A.T. approach trail archway in Amicalola Falls State Park

- Blairsville-Union County A.T. Community: Obtain copyright for the “History of the A.T. in North Georgia” and to print and distribute 1,000 copies of this publication.
  - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Fund a Wilderness/Trail Technician to increase monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA.
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
    - Support for GATC’s volunteer Trail Ambassador program.
    - Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers.
    - Support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia.
    - Trail Skills Workshop for A.T. Section Maintainers in Georgia.
    - Purchase tools and First aid/trauma kits for maintenance activities on the A.T. in Georgia.
    - Support the construction of a new Visitors Center at Amicalola Falls State Park and provide funds to update the A.T. exhibit, museum and Interpretive Center at the new facility.
    - Video recording of interviews with the pioneers who helped build and maintain the Appalachian Trail footpath and trail structures in Georgia.
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**2019: \$60,000 granted to support projects support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
    - LatinX Partnership and Training – set up a support systems for Spanish speaking families and groups to feel welcome in the outdoors; host a Leave No Trace and How to Hike the
    - A.T. workshop for Latino Outdoors Coordinators (on the east coast) and Latinx Hikers.
    - Support the NextGen Forest Ambassador program for GA youth to foster their understanding of and appreciation for public lands in their communities, including the Appalachian Trail.
  - Blairsville-Union County A.T. Community: Repair and restore the “History of the A.T. in Georgia” display at Neel Gap
  - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest:
    - Increase monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a peak season backcountry ranger dedicated to the A.T.
    - Purchase tools for trail rehabilitation work on the A.T.
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
    - Support for Save the Hemlocks initiative on the A.T. in Georgia
    - Support for GATC’s volunteer Trail Ambassador program
    - Outreach to bring youth from Atlanta and north Georgia to hike on the A.T.
    - Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers
    - Support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia
    - Tools for new A.T. Section Maintainers
    - Rock tools for A.T. projects
    - Spring Break Volunteer appreciation items
    - Sawyer Certification Class for club volunteers
  - Len Foote Hike Inn: Support for a 2020 youth service learning trip to stay at the Hike Inn, perform trail work on the A.T. Approach Trail, and learn from GATC members.
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**2018: \$41,079.93 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
    - Set up a structure and support system for Spanish speaking families and groups from the Atlanta area to help them feel welcome on the A.T.
    - Pilot a NextGen Forest Ambassador program for GA youth to foster their understanding of and appreciation for public lands in their communities, including the Appalachian Trail.
  - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest:
    - Increase monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a seasonal backcountry ranger dedicated to the A.T.
    - Purchase tools for trail rehabilitation work on the A.T.
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club:
    - Support for GATC's volunteer Trail Ambassador program
    - Outreach to bring youth from Atlanta and north Georgia to hike on the A.T.
    - Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers
    - Support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia
    - New trail maintenance tools.
  - Len Foote Hike Inn: Support for a 2019 youth service learning trip to stay at the Hike Inn, perform trail work on the A.T. Approach Trail, and learn from GATC members.
  - Tom Banks and Tara Roberts: Produce educational videos that can be used to compliment ongoing Visitor Use Management efforts on the A.T. in Georgia.
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**2017: \$30,000 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Blairsville-Union County A.T. Community: Increased awareness and appreciation for the Trail, its history and its connection to communities in North Georgia through the publication and distribution of *The History of the Appalachian Trail in North Georgia* document.
  - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Increased monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a seasonal backcountry ranger dedicated to the A.T.
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club: Separate grants for support for GATC's volunteer Trail Ambassador program; outreach to bring youth from Atlanta and north Georgia to hike on the A.T.; Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers; support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia; enhancements to the club's website
  - Len Foote Hike Inn: Support for a 2018 youth service learning trip to stay at the Hike Inn, perform trail work on the A.T. Approach Trail, and learn from GATC members
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**2016: \$24,874 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Increased monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a seasonal backcountry ranger dedicated solely to the A.T.

- Georgia Appalachian Trail Club: Separate grants for support for GATC's volunteer Trail Ambassador program; outreach to bring youth from Atlanta and north Georgia to hike on the A.T.; Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers; support for ATC Ridgerunners along the Trail in Georgia
  - Hiwassee-Towns County A.T. Community: Purchase and design of an A.T. Community kiosk in the new Mayor's Park to highlight Hiwassee as an A.T. Community, welcome hikers and inform them about local services and resources, and inspire visitors to learn about the A.T.
  - Len Foote Hike Inn: Support for a 2017 youth service learning trip to stay at the Hike Inn, perform trail work on the A.T. Approach Trail, and learn from GATC members
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**2015: \$20,190 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Increased monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a seasonal backcountry ranger dedicated solely to the A.T.
  - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club: Separate grants for support for GATC's volunteer Trail Ambassador program; outreach to bring youth from Atlanta to hike on the A.T.; Wilderness First Aid training for club volunteers; GPS equipment for better trail inventory and stewardship
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**2014: \$17,131 granted to support projects in the state of Georgia**

- Blairsville-Union County A.T. Community Advisory Committee: Development of educational exhibit of the history of the A.T. in north Georgia
- Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: Increased monitoring and education on the A.T. in GA through the hiring of a seasonal backcountry ranger dedicated solely to the A.T.
- Georgia Appalachian Trail Club: Separate grants for improvements to GATC's website to better serve Trail users and club volunteers; Wilderness First Aid training for club hike leaders and sawyers