

# 2025 Volunteer Impact Report



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is dedicated to connecting both experienced and new trail stewards to meaningful volunteer opportunities on the A.T. In the 2025 federal fiscal year, more than **400 events**, hosted by A.T. Clubs and the ATC, were posted publicly on the ATC's **Volunteer Engagement Platform** and were also promoted through the ATC's monthly *Volunteer Opportunities* newsletter. With over **2,060 volunteer registrations**, these events led to significant improvements on the A.T. treadway, landscape, and corridor.

Furthermore, nearly **700 volunteers** stepped up to repair the unprecedented damage caused by Hurricane Helene on the southern regions of the Trail.

The following summaries of accomplishments only represent a fraction of the impact of volunteers throughout the 2025 federal fiscal year.

**4,592 individual  
volunteers on the A.T.**

**155,256  
volunteer hours**

**Equivalent to  
\$5.4 million\***

\*According to the Independent Sector that establishes the value of volunteer labor annually

## Trail Skills & Leadership Development

The ATC supported Clubs and volunteers by leading 47 in person and online trainings throughout the 2025 federal fiscal year. More than 625 volunteers gained knowledge and skills in topics ranging from safe saw operations to advanced trail maintenance techniques. Volunteers from 27 A.T. Clubs, pictured below, attended the Volunteer Leadership Meeting, advancing their skills in volunteer recruitment and retention, and increasing their knowledge of the cooperative management system, visitor use management, and other A.T. management processes.



## A.T. Club Accomplishments

**The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC)** led 190 work trips with a total 8,043 volunteer hours. Many of these hours were spent repairing damage to the A.T. and trail shelters caused by Hurricane Helene. The Club also partnered with **the ATC, Wahoo's Adventure Nolichucky, Uncle Johnny's Nolichucky Hostel Cabins & Camping, Unicoi County, and the city of Erwin, Tennessee** to provide a free daily ferry service to hikers after the Chestoa Pike Bridge was destroyed during the hurricane. Appalachian Trail Resiliency Fund donations helped fund the project.



Post-Helene damage on TEHCC's section of the A.T.

**The Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club** spent much of the year repairing damage from Hurricane Helene, clearing an unprecedented number of blowdowns and restoring the severely damaged treadway on their section of the Trail. Over spring break, 12 students and a faculty advisor from the **Outdoor Club of Virginia Tech** joined the MRATC in Damascus to repair root ball damage to the Trail and help remove blowdowns.

**The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's** West Jersey Trail Crew finished redecking the iconic mile-long Pochuck Boardwalk in the fall.

In November, the ATC's **Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew** and the **Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club** finished a multi-year project to replace the 41-foot bridge north of Scott Farm in the Cumberland Valley.

Throughout the year, volunteers with the **Carolina Mountain Club** spent over 5,500 hours repairing damage from Hurricane Helene. As part of their recovery efforts, the Club hosted a Helene Recovery work day that was open to the public. The day after Thanksgiving, 130 volunteers removed debris from the A.T. and the French Broad River, cleared storm-damaged trees, and repaired the treadway at Tanyard Gap. This event broke the Club's previous work day attendance record.

From November through January, volunteers from the **Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, and Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club** assisted with completing View Importance Assessments for all Virginia views.

**The Green Mountain Club** rung in the new year by opening their new Rothberg-Birdwhistell Visitor Center to provide a safe and welcoming headquarters for staff and visitors.

In March, volunteers with the **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club** replaced the 25-year-old steps at the popular Carvers Gap trailhead.

Also in March, the **Smoky Mountains Hiking Club** and the ATC partnered to airlift 80 locust logs (the most durable and rot-resistant material for trail projects besides stone) into the backcountry to restore a remote, heavily-used section of the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Ten college students from Texas spent part of their spring break helping the **Nantahala Hiking Club** clear numerous blowdowns and repair damaged treadway near Beech Gap.



The **Georgia Appalachian Trail Club** held its annual A.T. Gateways program in March, which coincided with the U.S. Postal Service's A.T. Stamp First-Day-of-Issue Ceremony at Amicalola Falls State Park. The Club also hosted A.T. Basecamp for 12 weeks during the thru-hiking season, continued work on the Byron Reese Trail relocation with the **Konnarock Crew**, and planned the Trails Skills Workshop and the biennial Women's Trail Summit.

The CCC-built Walnut Mountain Shelter got a new home in March. In 2017, the **Carolina Mountain Club** began working with two states, two National Forests, and Hot Springs, NC to save this structure. This spring, trail crews carefully labeled, photographed, and took the shelter apart piece by piece. It was then rebuilt as a permanent historical exhibit behind the Hot Springs Visitor Center.

A new pedestrian bridge over Route 311 at the McAfee Knob trailhead opened in March. **The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club** completed the trail relocation to connect the A.T. to the new bridge on either side, made and installed new directional signage, moved a kiosk across the parking lot, and assisted with parking lot repair and decommissioning the old trail.



The new pedestrian bridge at the McAfee Knob trailhead

From November through May, the **Mountain Club of Maryland** replaced the roof on the Bishop Darlington Shelter and privy, and also modernized the privy as part of the project.

In May, the ATC hosted a field training for the **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club** to help prepare Club members for their collaboration with the **Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps** crew. The training, sponsored by Athletic Brewing's Two for the Trails Grant, focused on trail assessment, rehabilitation planning, and collaboration strategies.

**The Maine Appalachian Trail Club** opened their Maine Trail Center in May, providing a modern space to house the Maine Trail Crew and Ridgerunners during the summer season, as well as a place for training and tool storage.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the **Appalachian Mountain Club** installed the A.T.'s first conveyer belt system toilet at the Liberty Springs tent site in the White Mountains. The system separates solids and liquids, and dehydrates materials, eliminating the need for chips.

**The Konnarock Trail Crew and the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club** officially opened the War Spur A.T. Relocation in the Mountain Lake Wilderness this summer. The one-mile relocation replaces a half-mile of steep, fall-line trail that was eroding into a ditch full of loose rocks.

Over the summer, **the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club**, in partnership with the **Glenwood-Pedlar Ranger District and USFS A.T. Bridge Engineer Tyler Beach**, completed the Brown Mountain Creek Bridge replacement and relocation project.

In July, the **Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and the Konnarock Crew** started work on a sustainable overnight campsite project designed to manage visitor impact near the heavily used Catawba Mountain Shelter. Crews selected a suitable sidehill location and constructed crib walls using flown-in locust logs to create level tent pads that were filled with rock, crush, and soil.

During the summer months, the **Dartmouth Outing Club's** Cabins and Trails section mitigated a worsening erosion problem on the section of Trail approaching Mount Cube by building numerous stone staircases.

**The Appalachian Mountain Club Connecticut Chapter** helped hikers stay safer and drier by repairing the Brassie Brook and Carse Brook bridges over the summer. The Club also removed over 100 downed trees and completed the ATC's Legacy Restoration Fund trail assessment.

**The Maine Appalachian Trail Club** completed another successful summer of privy building. Club volunteers built new moldering privies at the Rainbow Stream, Baldplate, and Hall Mountain campsites. Volunteers also assisted three Ridgerunners and Club staff with cleaning up several generations of old privies at the Horns Pond Campsite.

**The Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter** recruited and trained five new Corridor Monitors over the summer months.

**The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club** hosted two highly popular and productive family campout and trail maintenance events, as well as three "Lopperfest" work weekends.

In August, the **Dartmouth Outing Club** hosted 10 volunteers for a seven-day work trip with **Wilderness Volunteers and the Green Mountain Club**. The group maintained 79 monuments, cleared and painted over six miles of boundary lines, and removed and sorted over a mile of abandoned maple sap lines.

**The Appalachian Mountain Club Western Massachusetts Chapter and the American Hiking Society** led 10 volunteers on a four-day "Volunteer Vacation" in September. Volunteers maintained 100 monuments, and cleared and painted over six miles of boundary lines.



Volunteer painting boundary lines on a Volunteer Vacation.

## Visitor Services

Volunteers working at the three ATC-managed visitor centers ensured operations were possible **seven days a week**, logging **3,721 hours** and engaging with **29,464 visitors**.

Additionally, volunteers working through A.T. Clubs engaged visitors at four high-use Trail sections or parking areas to provide information on Leave No Trace and responsible recreation. These volunteer Ridgerunners and Trail Ambassadors interacted with thousands of A.T. visitors, logging **5,168 hours** of volunteer time.

**Keep reading for the 2025 Volunteers in Parks and Volunteers in Forests Report (VIP/VIF Report).** Each of the 30 A.T.-Maintaining Clubs and the ATC reports the number of volunteers and volunteer hours supporting the Trail during the previous fiscal year. Note: each Club manages a different Trail section length and Club responsibilities depend on location.

Trail Clubs/Trail Crews/ATC Offices	Volunteers in Parks (VIP)				Volunteers in Forests (VIF)				Worked both	Unduplicated workers	Combined VIP and VIF	Travel
	Volunteers	Field work	Other	Total VIP	Volunteers	Field work	Other	Total VIF				
Maine A.T. Club (includes Maine Trail Crew)	403	7306	7566	14,872						403	14,872	5603
Appalachian Mountain Club					66	1324	5	1,329		66	1,329	341
Randolph Mountain Club					6	30	54	84		6	84	28
Dartmouth Outing Club					139	1634	384	2,018		139	2,018	125
Green Mountain Club					415	5385	300	5,685		415	5,685	2088
AMC-Western Mass. Chapter	151	4955	582	5,537						151	5,537	1423
AMC-Connecticut Chapter	104	2724	874	3,598						104	3,598	1470
NY-NJ Trail Conference	292	4647	516	5,163						292	5,163	782
Batona Hiking Club	11	161	42	203						11	203	88
AMC-Delaware Valley	34	426	112	538						34	538	208
Keystone Trails Association	11	214	8	222						11	222	48
Blue Mtn. Eagle Climbing Club	41	1736	240	1,976						41	1,976	768
Allentown Hiking Club	35	637	530	1,167						35	1,167	521
Susquehanna A.T. Club	58	982	382	1,364						58	1,364	311
York Hiking Club	45	460	80	540						45	540	
Cumberland Valley A.T. Club	155	1,564	579	2,143						155	2,143	387
Mountain Club of Maryland	55	1309	455	1,764						55	1,764	723
Potomac A.T. Club	417	14255	3343	17,598						417	17,598	5712
Old Dominion A.T. Club	26	241	128	369	1	7		7		27	376	370
Tidewater A.T. Club	24	77	325	402	141	2075	2227	4,302	24	141	4,704	1682
Natural Bridge A.T. Club	39	299	128	427	135	6054	738	6,792	36	138	7,219	3707
Roanoke A.T. Club + McAfee Knob Task Force	71	3640	939	4,579	78	2659	939	3,598	32	117	8,177	1597
Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech					36	642	76	718		36	718	276
Piedmont A.T. Hikers					99	4478	734	5,212		99	5,212	2323
Mount Rogers A.T. Club	10	97	0	97	138	3144	554	3,698	10	138	3,795	1120
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club					296	11539	1176	12,715		296	12,715	3285
Carolina Mountain Club					341	8366	540	9,961		341	9,961	3207
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	125	3261	201	3,462	15	292	16	308	9	131	3,770	1651
Nantahala Hiking Club					103	4187	898	5,085		103	5,085	
Georgia A.T. Club					266	11448	597	12,045		266	12,045	6818
Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Crews, Visitor Centers, Councils, Board, A.T. Communities	237	3485	6368	9,853	98	5825		5,825	14	321	15,678	321
TOTALS	2,344	52,476	23,398	75,874	2,373	69,089	9,238	79,382	125	4,592	155,256	46,983
	VIP				VIF							
Total volunteers (minus duplicates)	4,592											
Total volunteer hours Trailwide	155,256	*includes 8,647 hours of training (5.5% of the total)										

**Total hours, including Travel and Advocacy** **202,319**

**Value of A.T. Volunteerism** (based on Independent Sector, April 2025)

\$5,401,356.24