

WHY I GIVE

The Dunleavy Foundation

\$5 Million Centennial Campaign Gift Accelerates Appalachian Trail Landscape Protection and the Wild East Action Fund



IN NOVEMBER 2025, The Dunleavy Foundation made the largest philanthropic gift in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's history, a \$5 million donation in support of the Wild East Action Fund to advance local efforts to connect the wild, scenic, and cultural wonders of the landscape surrounding the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

This generous gift to ATC's Centennial Campaign will advance local projects and support conservation partners in collectively protecting over 200,000 acres of the Appalachian Trail landscape. The initiative focuses on protecting clean water, wildlife habitat, working farms, and treasured outdoor spaces while strengthening local communities and long-term regional resilience. It includes acquiring and conserving land along the Trail and within its federally protected corridor, ensuring the landscape remains healthy, connected, and resilient so future generations can continue to experience its transformative power.

"...We believe it's critical to protect vital pieces of America's natural heritage for generations to come, and we are pleased to do our part to help keep the Trail alive."

**-DR. KEITH DUNLEAVY AND
DR. KATHERINE KIRBY DUNLEAVY**

The Dunleavy Foundation, founded by Dr. Keith Dunleavy and Dr. Katherine Kirby Dunleavy, is a private foundation focused on investment in organizations, people, and ideas that promote sense of purpose, self-reliance, impactful leadership, and a lasting benefit to society. Keith's love for the Appalachian Trail began on countless hikes during his years in the Boy Scouts and later at Dartmouth College, with the Dartmouth Outing Club, an A.T. Club. Katherine grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina near the A.T. For her the Trail represents not only a landscape to discover, but one that shaped her earliest sense of place, purpose, and home.

"Over the years, this passion deepened from more than just a physical challenge and a cherished opportunity to clear one's head to an appreciation for the breathtaking vistas and the diverse environments found along this true national treasure...We believe it's critical to protect vital pieces of America's natural heritage for generations to come, and we are pleased to do our part to help keep the Trail alive," Keith shared.

As part of the ATC's Centennial Campaign, this gift will amplify the commitment to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian Trail and its landscape so it can remain a place of life-changing discovery. 🌿



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**Appalachian Trail
Conservancy**

Centennial Campaign

Ensuring the Appalachian Trail and its landscape are protected, resilient, and connected for all.

Thanks to the generous support of our dedicated community, the ATC's Centennial Campaign has raised more than half of the funds needed for this comprehensive campaign. Your support is crucial to taking us across the finish line. Together, we can ensure that the Appalachian Trail continues to inspire for the next 100 years and beyond.



Explore ways to give
[keepthetrailalive.org](https://www.keepthetrailalive.org)
philanthropy@appalachiantrail.org

Keep the Trail Alive.