

A.T. Volunteerism in Federal Fiscal Year 2026



Because volunteerism doesn't just happen, **the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Volunteer and Partner Program** recruits, trains, and supports volunteers through its partnership with **30 A.T. Clubs**. These Clubs work with the ATC in managing the Trail and coordinating volunteers. Through our collaboration, every mile of the Appalachian Trail is maintained so that this national treasure remains available for the enjoyment of all.

4,712
Volunteers

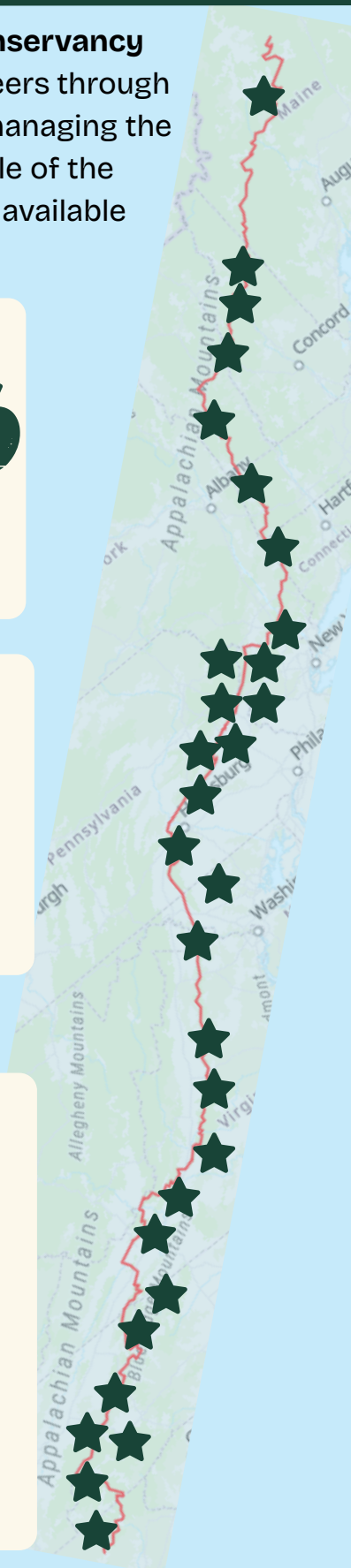
164,186
Hours

Read more
about A.T.
Clubs' impact.



Volunteers'
Effort is a
\$5.9M
Force
Multiplier

The body of the Appalachian Trail is the land on which it rests.
The soul of the Appalachian Trail is its volunteers.





2026 Appalachian Trail Volunteer Impact Report



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's **Volunteer Engagement Platform** offers many ways to volunteer.

26
Hosts

394
Volunteer Opportunities

1,282
Volunteer Connections



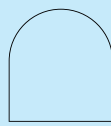
A digital means to search and sign-up to serve.

A quarter of all volunteers are <36 years old.

164,186 Volunteer Hours



Volunteer Recognition in 2026: Honoring Contributions



30 Hours: Pin

170



100 Hours: Patch

138



500 Hours: Cap

58



1,000 Hours: Vest

27



4,000 Hours:
Presidential Service Award

5

More on A.T. Volunteerism



Together, through A.T. Clubs, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Land Management agency partners, the volunteer legacy of the Appalachian Trail is sustained.

Illustrated as a three-legged stool or venn diagram, the Cooperative Management System is the collective commitment to shared responsibility.

Active Volunteer Development

The ATC works with A.T. Clubs to make volunteering easy by centralizing opportunities. Together, we recruit 1,000 new volunteers annually so newcomers have a chance to give back and find out that this kind of work is actually “play.” Every first experience has the potential to grow, so that individuals can contribute along a spectrum of engagement.



1/5
of all volunteers
are new



46%
of A.T. Volunteers
have been
volunteering > 7
years

Leadership and the Future

Half of all volunteers are over 55. Retirees from myriad professions contribute to the leadership of A.T. Club partners and are essential for effective management of the A.T. Because of their knowledge and skill, they are the torchbearers for all other volunteers.

Support Along a Spectrum of Engagement

The ATC develops and delivers trainings and materials that orient, build confidence, and support individuals in their volunteer roles - whether they are just learning the fundamentals of trail care, are renewing sawyers, or are developing as organizational leaders.



69
Trainings delivered
by the ATC in 2026.

How is
volunteering on
the A.T. unique?



All Together for All 2,192 Miles of the A.T.



Appalachian Trail Conservancy

2026 Volunteers in Parks and Volunteers in Forests Report

Trail Clubs/Trail Crews/ATC	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)	416	7806	5572	13,378						416	13,378	4933
Appalachian Mountain Club					109	1204	10	1,214		109	1,214	396
Randolph Mountain Club								0		0	0	
Dartmouth Outing Club					110	1084	384	1,468		110	1,468	132
Green Mountain Club					390	3387	300	3,687		390	3,687	1596
AMC-Western Mass. Chapter	194	4984	556	5,540						194	5,540	990
AMC-Connecticut Chapter	96	3225	984	4,209						96	4,209	1623
NY-NJ Trail Conference	320	9247	1062	10,309						320	10,309	2611
Batona Hiking Club	15	286	134	420						15	420	81
AMC-Delaware Valley	46	539	69	608						46	608	290
Keystone Trails Association	13	295	38	333						13	333	106
Blue Mtn. Eagle Climbing Club	74	4041	2213	6,254						74	6,254	2457
Allentown Hiking Club	39	627	579	1,206						39	1,206	672
Susquehanna A.T. Club	54	1133	362	1,495						54	1,495	447
York Hiking Club	69	870	29	899						69	899	261
Cumberland Valley A.T. Club	130	1,505	646	2,151						130	2,151	398
Mountain Club of Maryland	80	1163	160	1,323						80	1,323	630
Potomac A.T. Club	395	14802	2764	17,566						395	17,566	5804
Old Dominion A.T. Club	49	870	2	872	26	209	26	235	19	56	1,107	893
Tidewater A.T. Club	24	146	20	166	129	3172	2133	5,305	21	132	5,471	1774
Natural Bridge A.T. Club	33	253	93	346	96	3876	510	4,386	30	99	4,732	3431
Roanoke A.T. Club + McAfee Knob Task Force	94	1466	3439	4,905	82	1355	2028	3,383	28	148	8,288	1800
Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech					53	682	85	767		53	767	200
Piedmont A.T. Hikers					81	3509	599	4,108		81	4,108	2001
Mount Rogers A.T. Club	23	105	4	109	86	1545	500	2,045	23	86	2,154	735
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club					205	8870	521	9,391		205	9,391	2260
Carolina Mountain Club					331	9105	568	9,961		331	9,961	3480
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	162	3437	376	3,813	19	298	29	327	14	167	4,140	1832
Nantahala Hiking Club					105	4346	1187	5,533		105	5,533	
Georgia A.T. Club					268	15811	4063	19,874		268	19,874	7435
Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Crews, Visitor Centers, Councils, Board, A.T. Communities	231	2898	5888	8,786	214	7037	777	7,814	14	431	16,600	3983
TOTALS	2,557	59,698	24,990	84,688	2,304	65,490	13,720	79,498	149	4,712	164,186	53,251
	VIP				VIF							
Total volunteers (minus duplicates)	4,712											
Total volunteer hours Trailwide	164,186	*includes 5,759 hours of training (3.3% of the total)										
Value of A.T. Volunteerism	\$5,933,682.04 (based on Independent Sector, 2026 the value per hour is \$36.14)											
Overall hours including travel and advocacy	217,480											

It's not hyperbole to say that without volunteers, the Appalachian Trail wouldn't exist. Day in and day out, volunteers are building, restoring, and caring for the Trail. Volunteers remove fallen branches and trees that would otherwise obstruct the footpath. They clean drains and cut back brush so that water is kept off the Trail and hikers stay on it. They share information with visitors, keep shelters and privies in good condition, and are the eyes and the ears for the Trail against incompatible use.