Tennessee Appalachian Trail License Plate Grant Program
Past Grantees and Projects

Since 2010, TN Tag Grant Committee have awarded over $200,000 in Tennessee A.T. License Plate Grants. We are grateful to all of 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).

2026: $32,550 granted to support projects valued at $119,416

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:** Funds support SAHC's continued management of the Roan balds

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Osborne Farm mowing 2) Purchase of chainsaws and accessories 3)Purchase of weed eaters 4) Repair and removal of Cherry and Moreland Gap Shelters 5) Materials for the Elk River Relocation project 6) Tools and supplies for Helene Recovery

- **Friends of the Smokies**: Bear management along the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- **Smoky Mountain Hiking Club**: 1) Funds support the purchase of locust logs used up near Kuwohi 2) Funds cover airtime for airlift of materials

---

2025: $25,699 granted to support projects valued at $114,866

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:** Funds go towards the purchase of replacement peakfinder panels and vegetation management on Round Bald

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Roan High Knob Shelter the renovations 2) contract mowing to maintain accessibility of the A.T. at Osborne Farm

- **Friends of the Smokies**: Bear management along the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- **Smoky Mountain Hiking Club**: Support the removal and replacement of an old, deteriorated shelter roof at Mt. Collins shelter along the A.T.

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards:** Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

2024: $21,172 granted to support projects valued at $94,378

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:** Funds go towards the purchase of replacement peakfinder panels and vegetation management on Round Bald

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Roan High Knob Shelter the renovations 2) contract mowing to maintain accessibility of the A.T. at Osborne Farm

- **Friends of the Smokies**: Bear management along the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- **Smoky Mountain Hiking Club**: Support the removal and replacement of an old, deteriorated shelter roof at Mt. Collins shelter along the A.T.

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards:** Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

2023: $23,797 granted to support projects valued at $ 110,000

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:** Funds go towards the continued management and restoration of the Roan Highlands through volunteer recruitment and training

- **Carolina Mountain Club**: Supporting the abatement process of the Walnut Mountain Shelter, which will be reassembled in the town of Hot Springs, NC

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards**: Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Materials for new bog bridges and peak finders at Round Bald 2) Rock drill bits; 3) contract mowing to maintain accessibility of the A.T. at Osborne Farm; 4) Replacing 12 existing graffiti boards from Spivey Gap to the border of VA

- **Northeast Tenn. Tourism Association:** Support the 2023 A.T. Vista being held in Johnson City, TN

- **Friends of the Smokies**: Bear management along the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- **Smoky Mountain Hiking Club**: Support the removal and replacement of an old,

deteriorated shelter roof at Mt. Collins shelter along the A.T.

2022: $21,289 granted to support projects valued at $ 76,638

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy**: Install boot brush stations and interpretive signs at Carver's Gap to control spread of invasive plant seeds and support volunteer grassy bald management events around the Carver's Gap section of A.T. on Roan Mountain.

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards:** Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Materials for new bog bridges at Chestoa and Bitter End; 2) trail maintenance tools; 3) contract mowing to maintain accessibility of the
- A.T. at Osborne Farm; and support the USFS Appalachian District's Americorps VISTA Steward program.

- **MountainTrue**: Treat ash trees along the A.T. in Tennessee to protect against the Emerald Ash Borer.

2021: $19,453 granted to support projects valued at $ 95,959

- **Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park**: Bear Management along the A.T. in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Repair food storage cables at shelters and campsites along the A.T.; fund seasonal staff and wildlife interns to assist with repairs.

- **Northeast Tennessee Regional Economic Partnership**: Support for Meet the Mountains Festival and I.D.E.A.S. Council (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Safety) Project/Program

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:** Feral hog control (trapping) on NC side of Roan Highlands to protect rare plants on the A.T.

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards**: Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: 1) Materials for new bog bridges at Bishops Hollow and Bradley Gap; 2) trail maintenance tools: and 3) contract mowing to maintain accessibility of the A.T. at Osborne Farm.

2020: $16,150 granted to support projects values at $ 72,592

- **Wildwood Consulting**: Thin 6-8 acres of spruce forest on Unaka Mtn. for restoration

- **Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation:** Promote and execute Hikerpalooza 2020

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy**: Roan Highlands and Grassy Balds Management Programs and digitization of historical photos

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club:** Purchase battery powered chainsaw and handsaws for Trail maintenance

- **Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards**: Address the deferred maintenance of the trail tread of the Appalachian Trail specifically in the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness

---

2019: *$17,300 granted to support projects valued at $ 96,173*

- **MountainTrue:** Treat ash trees along the A.T. in Tennessee to protect against the Emerald Ash Borer.

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy**: Roan Highlands and Grassy Balds Management Programs

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Purchase cordless hedge trimmer and cordless hammer drill; replace Cherry Gap Shelter.

2018: *$8,113 granted to support projects valued at $ 166,654*

- **Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association:** Recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

- **Roan Mountain A.T. Community:** Roan Mountain Hard Core trail maintenance event and Roan Mountain Trail Festival

- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy**: Roan Highlands and Grassy Balds Management Programs

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Paint Overmountain Shelter.

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club:** Purchase First Time Volunteer Recognition Patches

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club:** Paint Curley Maple and Roan High Knob Shelters

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Fabricate and install wooden signs at significant geographical locations on the TEHCC section of A.T

2017: *$10,055 granted to support projects valued at $18,260*

- **Forest Fire Lookout Association**: Restoration of the historic Rich Mountain Lookout Tower.
- **Roan Mountain**: Support the Roan Mountain A.T. Community designation ceremony and community celebration.
- **Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy**: Replace the kiosk posters at Carver's Gap.
- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Repaint and repair the Stan Murray Shelter and purchase a chainsaw to support trail maintenance work.

2016: *$4,597 granted to support projects totaling $36,097*

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Purchase of materials to build cattle fencing for management of open areas; purchase of volunteer patches for first-time maintainers

---

2015: *$13,896 granted to support projects totaling $122,722*

- **A.T. Leave No Trace Video Project**: Creation of videos serving to educate A.T. hikers about Leave No Trace principles
- **Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy**: Purchase of materials to build an information kiosk on Round Bald
- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Food for the Hard Core trail crew; purchase of materials to replace the Koonford Bridge; repairs on several TN shelters
- **Unicoi County, TN**: Completion of trailhead kiosk at Chestoa

---

2014 – *$10,000 granted to support projects totaling $82,777*

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy**: Wilderness First Aid Training
- **James Donaldson**: Restoration and maintenance of grassy balds on the Trail through goat browsing projects
- **Smoky Mountain Hiking Club**: Purchase of materials for renovations to the Soak Ash Creek base camp
- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**: Meals for the Hard Core trail crew
- **Unicoi County, TN**: Purchase of materials for trailhead kiosk at Chestoa

2013 - *$6,600 granted to support projects totaling $70,393 = 1067% leverage*

- **East Tennessee State University**: Purchase of equipment for continuing Northern SawWhet Owl population studies, with Southern Appalachian Raptor Research

- **Southern Appalachian Raptor Research**: Continued research on Northern Saw-whet owl populations, with East Tennessee State University

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club**: Food for Hard Core trail crew

- **The Wilderness Society's Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards:** Purchase of tools and equipment for the new Wilderness Conservation Crew

---

2012 - *$7,828 granted to support projects totaling $68,548*

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy**: Purchase of a pack saddle for shared use by our horse group partners in Great Smoky Mountains NP A.T. projects

- **Cherokee National Forest**: Remediation of vandalism at Beauty Spot and work to prevent access of the area to 4-wheel vehicles

- **Smoky Mountains Hiking Club**: Rehabilitation of the Icewater Springs Shelter and surrounding area

- **Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club**: Groceries and patches for the 12^{th} Damascus Hard Core Trail work project; purchase of 115 hard hats for use by Hard Core and Appalachian State University volunteer groups as well as hard hats and loppers for club use.