



PATC 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Author:

Kyle Schut
PR Committee Chair

Design:

Chris MacKenzie
Communications
Supervisor





Dear Members and Supporters,

On behalf of our club, it is my pleasure to share some insight into our organization.

We connect people to the outdoors through cabins, hikes and volunteer opportunities, mostly trail maintenance.

We are one of the largest volunteer organization in the mid-Atlantic region, with more than 8,000 members and almost 1,300 volunteers who maintain many of the hiking trails in DC, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

We have 49 rental cabins, maintain 45 shelters, support 16 national parks, two national forests, several state parks and forests, and maintain 1,200 miles of trail, including 240 miles of the Appalachian Trail. All of that falls within an enormous 45,000 square mile footprint.

Together, we make an irreplicable contribution to maintaining and protecting our region's national treasures from parks and forests to historic battlefields and cabins.

Only through the selfless volunteer service of our membership have we have been able to continuously and consistently serve those who love the outdoors over the past 97 years.

As we approach our centennial in 2027, the importance of our mission and need for volunteers grows.

We have embarked on a multi-year effort to improve our responsiveness to our members, agency partners and the public through improving our business processes, communications and other initiatives.

The experience people have with us matters. As we move into 2024, we hope to deepen our fundraising efforts, increase volunteerism and connect ever more people to the outdoors.

We humbly ask you to join us on this journey, whether it be through volunteering your time, your financial support or simply supporting the club through your membership.

Hope to see you on the trail.

*President
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club*



2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

The year in numbers.



1,300
VOLUNTEERS

85,000
**VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



8,000
MEMBERS



A Map of PATC Volunteers

 **AT Corridor:**
40 Volunteers

 **Natural Resources:**
100 Volunteers

 **Cabin Operations:**
90 Volunteers



 **Trails:**
800 Volunteers



 **Outreach:**
60 Volunteers

 **Trail Patrol:**
60 Volunteers



 **HQ/Leadership:**
30 Volunteers

 **Cabin Maintainers:**
50 Volunteers





Media Moments

The Washington Post

Why the famed Appalachian Trail keeps getting longer – and harder.

PATC Member Chris Brunton shares his experience maintaining a thin stretch of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia known as the Roller Coaster. “We were confined because the Park Service bought only so much land,” recounts Brunton. “We did the best we could within that narrow corridor.”



PATC President Jim Fetig discusses the joys of hiking the Appalachian Trail. Ridgerunner Kasey Kohlmeier talks about her work at Annapolis Rock in Maryland and relocates venomous copperheads nesting at the overlook.



Experiences

Volunteers and PATC members connected with each other and the outdoors.

Volunteering

Our volunteers maintained more than a thousand miles of trails in the region, serving as good stewards of the pathways that connect people in the area to the outdoors. In addition to trail work, PATC members also helped maintain cabins and shelters, manage land tracts, monitor AT corridor boundaries, respond to severe weather events, and train fellow volunteers.

Hiking

Members who took our hike leader course and passed wilderness first aid certification led hikes throughout our region. Our hike leaders lead hikes at all levels of difficulty and length.

Cabins

With 49 cabins in the region, we offered unique getaways to nature's serene beauty.

Education

With courses on hiking, backpacking, trail maintenance, and other subjects, we trained hundreds of leaders and volunteers on how to protect nature while experiencing its splendor.

Events

In 2023, we provided many opportunities for the public to engage with us throughout the year, including the Spring Open House at our headquarters in Vienna, National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day hikes through a partnership with Shenandoah National Park, and our Fall Open House at Bears Den. We also attended three ceremonies designating towns along the Appalachian Trail as AT Communities.



The year in fundraising



General Operating Fund:

\$128,026



Trail Lands Fund:

\$10,827



Trail Maintenance Fund:

\$15,006



Shelters/Cabins/Cabin

\$9,685



Endowment Fund:

\$34,390



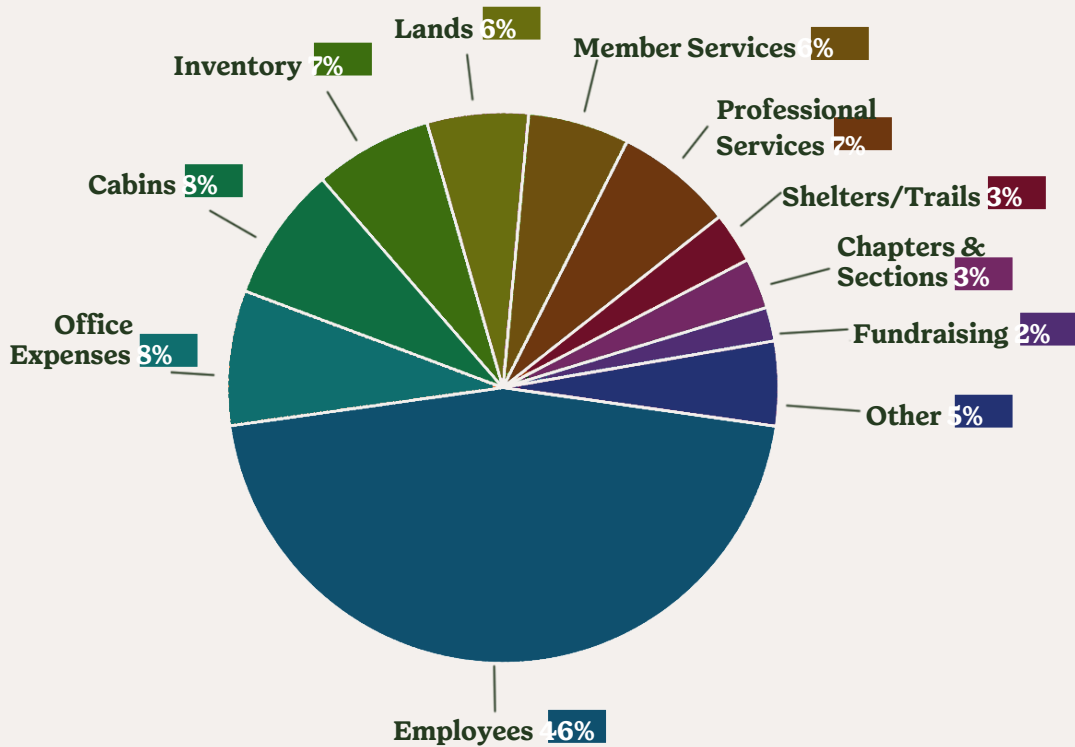
Headquarters and Repair

\$410

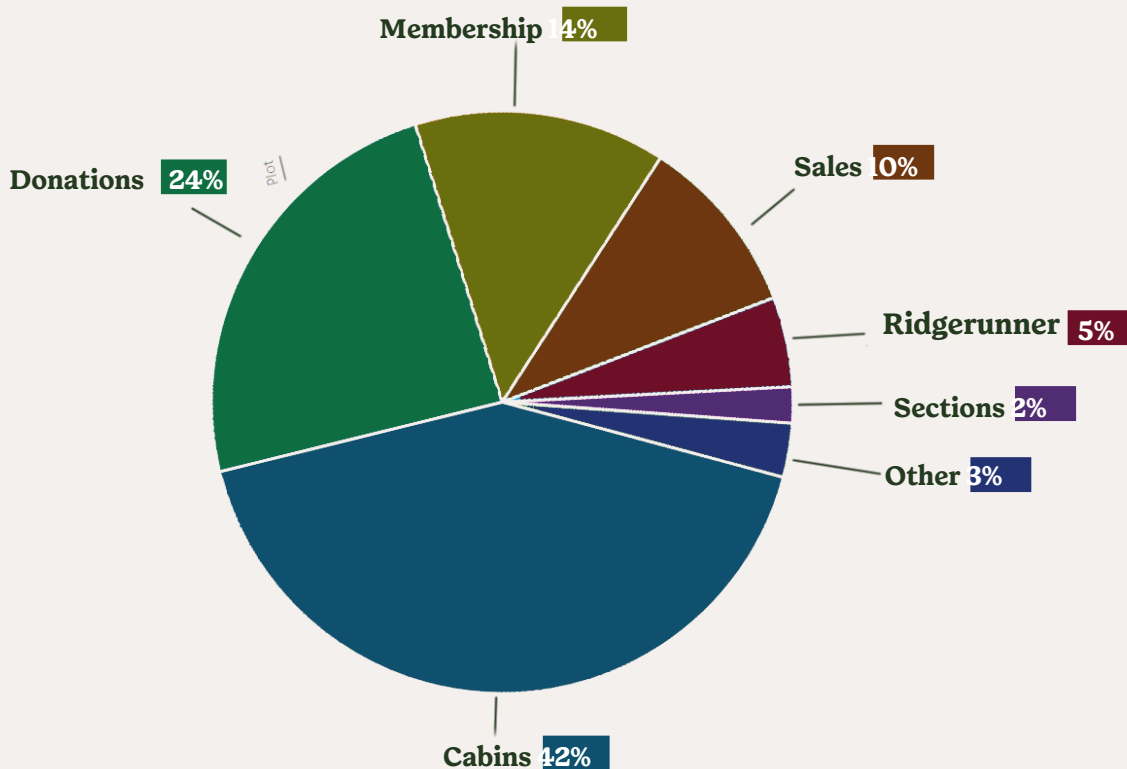
PATC uses donations to supply volunteers with needed equipment, maintain cabins, support land conservation efforts, and fund a full-time staff that manages the organization's day-to-day needs.



2023 Expenses



2023 Revenue



Leadership

PATC is managed by volunteer officers who plan and execute its work. The Council serves as the board of directors and is composed of 31 members who represent the functions, committees, chapters, and sections of the club. Twelve of those officers are elected by the membership and comprise the Executive Committee (ExCom) that sets the Council's agenda and executes its policies. Each Council officer has responsibility for an aspect of the club's activities. Council members do most of their work with other volunteers outside Council.

Council is connected to the boots-on-the ground through managers. The trails, cabins, and lands that the club maintains are organized into districts. The managers of those districts lead volunteer work and report to members of the Council. The work of the club is coordinated from above, but supervised and executed by its volunteers on the ground.

While the club's leadership is composed of unpaid volunteers, a staff of nine full-time employees assists them. The staff is led by a staff director who provides skill and continuity that are vital to the club's important work. PATC also employs a team of seasonal workers, including the Ridge Runners, who live on and watch over trails and campsites.

The individuals who serve in leadership, volunteer manager, and staff positions are listed on the club's website in our [directory](#).



Thank You

TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS:

Your contributions serve to help protect and preserve 80 tracts of land in the Mid-Atlantic region, to maintain 1,200 miles of trails, and to help connect thousands to the peace and beauty of the outdoors. These tax-deductible contributions support and sustain our organization's mission as it nears its centennial in 2027, and we look forward to connecting people to the outdoors for generations to come. Special thanks to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, the National Park Service's Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA), Shenandoah National Park, and the U.S. Forest Service for their support and contributions. Thank you also to Richard Rooney and Tom Johnson whose generous bequeathals and lifetime of volunteering strengthened PATC. Both will be remembered for their commitment to service.

TO OUR STAFF:

Thank you for your tireless work and commitment. Through your work, you have helped thousands of members volunteer their time, engage in outdoor experiences, and connect with one another. You have allowed our organization to achieve its mission of protecting the trails, the land, and connecting people with nature.

Whether it's coordinating events, building out a new website, or helping to connect our members with volunteer opportunities and experiences, each one of you plays an indispensable role in PATC's success.

Thanks to each and every one of you for being the guiding force behind what PATC has accomplished.

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you for giving your time and your labor to support PATC in its mission. Through your volunteer work, you have supported hundreds of miles of trails, trained fellow volunteers, responded to extreme weather events, and maintained the historic network of cabins and shelters that PATC looks after. You have created access for thousands of others to enjoy the outdoors as you have. From one hiker to another, thank you for your service.

