



# 2023 IN REVIEW



**BRIDGING THE DEAF AND OUTDOOR COMMUNITIES SINCE 2016  
AND SERVING THEM AS A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT SINCE 2018**



Dear Friends of CorpsTHAT,

As you have probably already saw from the picture below, we finally got our first ever CorpsTHAT owned vehicle! With the \$20,000 we raised with Sol Fest 2022 we were able to purchase a 15 passenger Van! We have officially christened it by naming the van “Vantastic”! Check out our reels on our social media for the full story of how it got to Maryland this summer in time for our crew!

Last summer, our Deaf-run Conservation Corps Crew began their third season and our van has been very well received! We also supported Pennsylvania Outdoors Corps's ASL Inclusion Crew for Deaf High School youth in Pennsylvania and partnered with American YouthWorks to set up an inaugural National Park Service Intern Placement program. In total, we hired 7 Deaf Adults on our crews, 3 youth members and 5 NPS interns. Working with the West Virginia Land Trust and partnering with Jooux, National Deaf Therapy, Sarah Young Bear-Brown and Base Medical we provided training for our 4 Crew Leaders and were able to certify them in Wilderness First Aid.

This year also has been full of meeting new friends, reuniting with old friends, and saying our goodbyes to some good friends. Zoé Rodriguez returned to our team to teach ASL, alongside with Shirley Shannon, and became our new Social Media Coordinator. Sam Forshay’s AmeriCorps VISTA member term ended in November and she will be leaving us to pursue her educational endeavors. While we will be saying ‘Goodbye’ it will only be a ‘See You Later’ as we will still be seeing her at our events in the future! We also hope to see you, your friends, and your family at all the exciting events we have planned for 2024!

Happy Trails!  
The CorpsTHAT Team



# CORPSTHAT TEAM



- Sam Forshay completed her second year as an AmeriCorps VISTA in November
- She is an Alumni of our 2021 CorpsTHAT Crew.



- Sam (Marlo) Bragg is our Field and Logistics Director
- Hired full time in spring of 2022, first full time and 401k staff member!
- Spent 750+ hours in the field supporting our programs.



- Emma Bixler is our Program Director.
- Finally became full time staff for CorpsTHAT, after volunteering her time since 2016!
- Drove 6,000+ miles in the field supporting our programs



- Shirley Ann Shannon is our ASL Coordinator and Instructor
- She taught over 250 hours this year
- Taught ASL to 109 people who worked in the outdoors

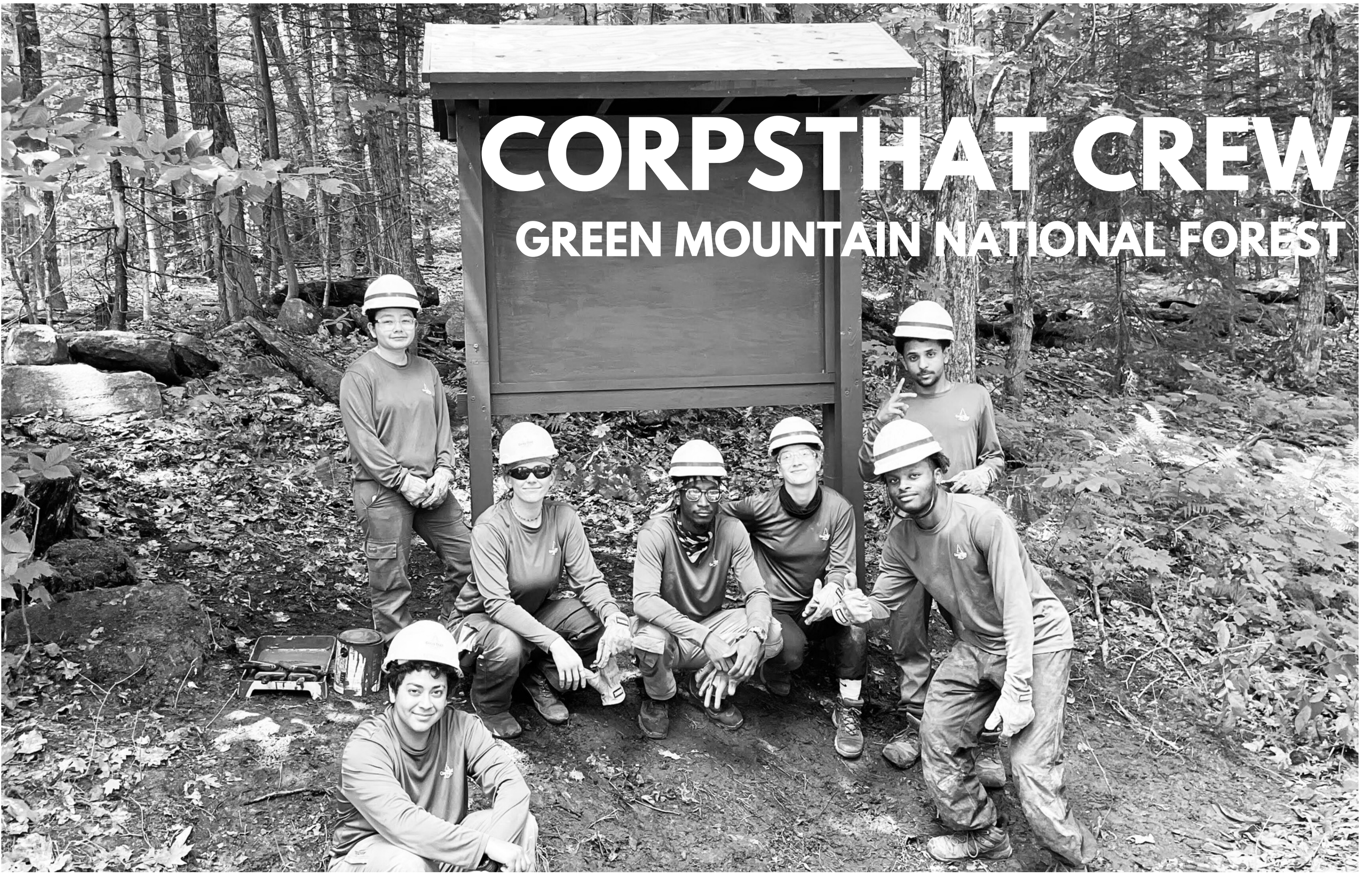


- Zoé Rodriguez is our ASL Instructor and Social Media Coordinator
- She taught over 40 hours this fall
- Taught ASL to 10 people who worked in the outdoors

We also wanted to say thank you to our Board of Directors, Board President Sachiko Flores! Also thank you to our 2023 office interns: Elisabeth Donophan and Evalena Bobb from Towson University; Miaad Al Buraiki from Gallaudet University; and Paige Butler!

# CORPSTHAT CREW

## GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST



### Crew Stats:

- 7 members hired
- 95+ hours of outreach and education
- 30+ hours of recreation
- 1400+ hours invested working on conservation projects for US Forest Service

### Work Completed:

- 1.7 acres of habitat improved
- 10+ miles of trail inspected and maintained
- 6 10-gallon bags of trash collected
- 16 campsites maintained
- 35 new structures built
- 1 recreation site decommissioned
- 2 US Forest Service buildings cleaned and maintained

### Where they Worked and Recreated:

*Weekend 3: Sailing and Biking*

*Weekend 4: Farm Visit*

**Week 4: Rob Ford Wildlife Meadow and Robert Frost Trail**

**Week 5: Sap Boiler and Old Gents Trail**

**Week 1: Bingo Brook**

**Week 4: Rochester Ranger Station**

**Week 4: White River**

*Weekend 2: Rock Climbing*

*Weekend 1: Hiking*

**Week 3: Hapgood pond**

**Week 2: Mount Tabor**

**Week 3: Long Trail & Appalachian Trail Trailheads**

**Week 2: Manchester Ranger Station**





# PAOC ASLI CREW

## PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR CORPS PARTNER PROGRAM

### Partnership:

- Supported in the hiring of 2 Deaf leaders
- Provided Crew Leader Training
- Provided training and basic ASL for PA DCNR and local organizations

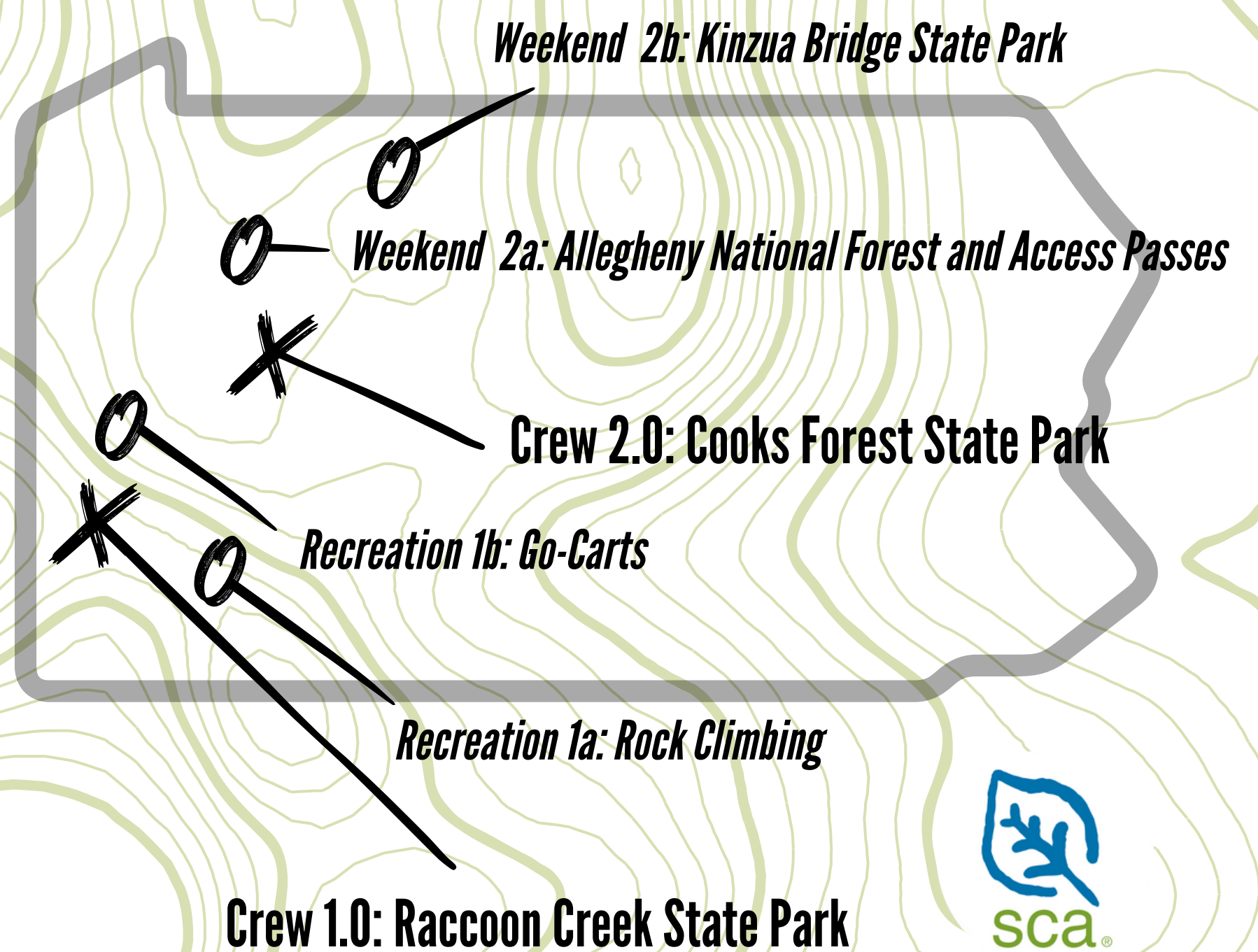
### Crew Stats:

- 2 crews
- 5 members hired
- 16 hours of outreach and education
- 900+ hours spent working with the state parks of Pennsylvania

### Work Completed:

- 2 miles of trail maintained and improved
- 400 feet of new trail built
- 2 French Mattresses built

### Where they Worked and Recreated:





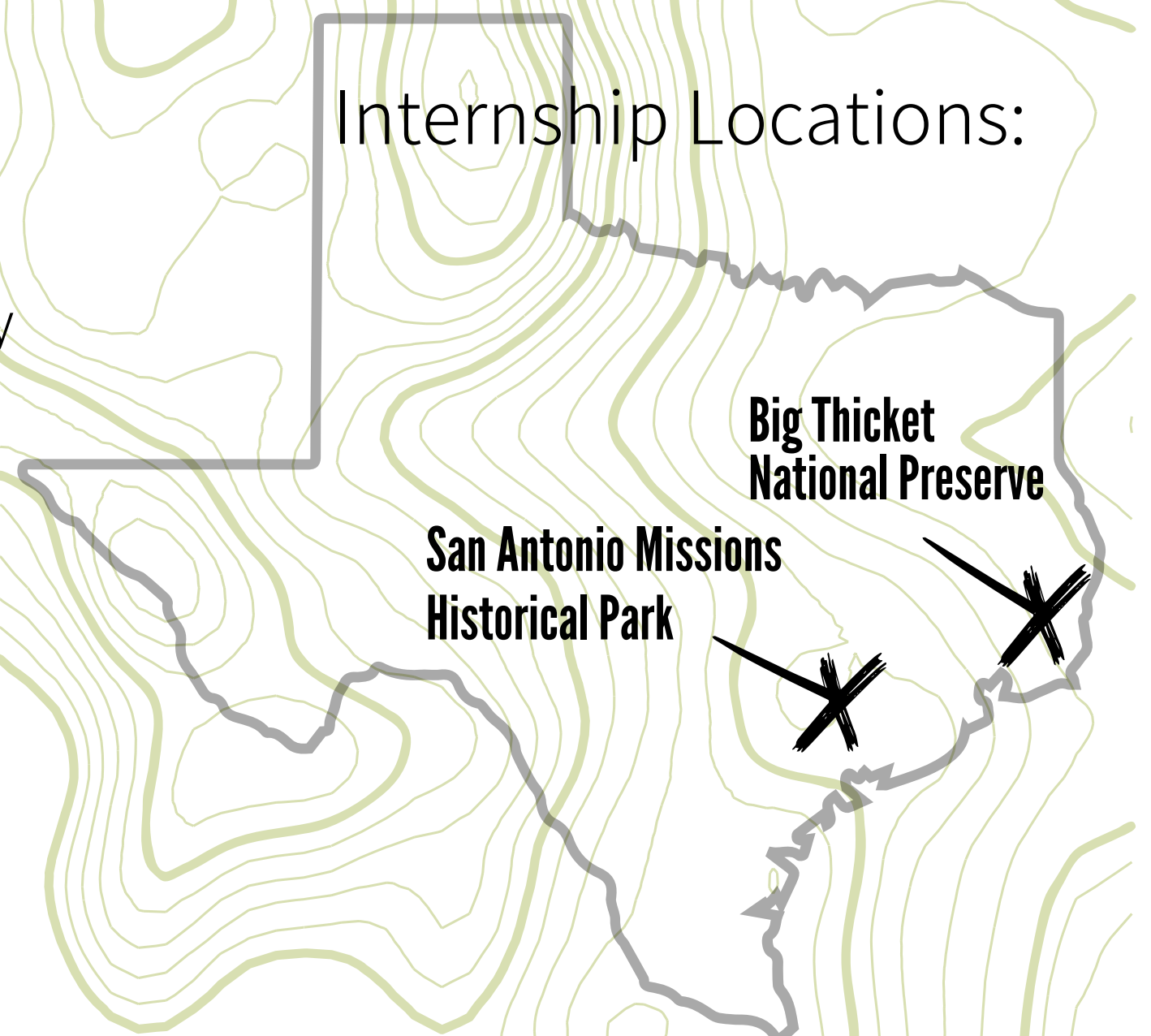
# INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

## WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND TEXAS CONSERVATION CORPS

### Intern Stats:

- 5 interns provided outreach and education
- 4+ miles surveyed for resource management research
- 36 Deaf visitors served (ASL fishing, paddle, community day)
- 200 visitors provided outreach at Beaumont's Pride Festival
- 117 paddlers served
- 2000+ Photos taken for marketing and social media purposes
- 3 ASL community events hosted:
  - 1 ASL Fishing Day- 35 signing anglers served
  - 1 ASL Community Paddle Trip- 10 Deaf paddlers served
  - 1 ASL Community Park Day- 15 Deaf and signing visitors served
- 3 mentorship sessions with Deaf and signing National Park Service employees

### Internship Locations:





# STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

WITH LEXINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
AND DELAWARE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

## Lexington School for the Deaf

- With Green Mountain National Forest
- 4 day program
- 9 high school students
- Students stayed Liberty Inn, a working farm
- Volunteered with Ridgeline Outdoor Collective
- Work experience with USFS improving campgrounds
- Learned Mountain Biking Skills with Deaf MTB instructor
- Learned about USFS opportunities

**LEXINGTON**  
SCHOOL & CENTER FOR THE DEAF



Read more about the program in the Forest Service Article: [here](#)

## Delaware School for the Deaf

- With Delaware Nature Center
- 2 day program
- 26 middle school students
- Learned LNT principles
- Hawk watching
- Campfire
- Explored the Nature Center's grounds



**Delaware School  
for the Deaf**



See more from DSD student's experience in their youtube video: [here](#)



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## EVENTS, WEBINARS AND RECRUITMENT

- Recruitment Events:

- Booths at Gallaudet University and RIT
- Job Spotlight Webinars
- Conservation Corps Alumni Panel
- BizTown table with Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth in Washington State
- Homecoming Booths at American School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University

- Community Events:

- Earth Day Volunteer Day with DC Office of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing
- Orientating with QOC USA Deaf Olympics Orienteering Team
- Volunteering event with Baltimore ToolBank
- ASL Days with the TXCC Youthworks NPS IP Program - BITH Fishing Day, BITH Paddle Day, and San Antonio ASL Day
- Graduation events for our Summer 2023 programs
- Orienteering on Gallaudet Campus with Deaf Olympic Team
- Tree Walk with Baltimore Tree Trust and Friends of the Herring Run Park

- Webinars:

- AmeriCorps Alumni Panel
- USDA - FS Webinar Workshop with Gretchen Smith and Katie Day



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES, TRAINING AND PRESENTATIONS

- CorpsTHAT team participated in 175+ hours of training
  - Trails Skills College
  - NOLS Wilderness Risk Management (WRMC) Conference
  - Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) Conference
  - American Trails Advancing Trails Webinars
  - Pacific Crest Trail Association Webinars
  - TDI Conference
  - Monthly AmeriCorps Training
- CorpsTHAT led 181+ hours of training for the outdoor field
  - Emergency Response Plan & Risk Management
  - Conservation Interpreting workshop with Trail Blazing Interpreting agency
  - Outdoor 101
  - Leave No Trace Recreational training with our stewardship programs
- CorpsTHAT led a 2 week long field training for CTC and PAOC ASLi Crew Leaders where we:
  - Co-taught Wilderness First Aid with Base Medical
  - Completed \$12,000 worth of conservation projects for West Virginia Land Trust
  - Partnered with Jooux, National Deaf Therapy and Sarah YoungBear-Brown
  - Certified our leaders with Leave No Trace- Level 1 Instructor Course

# ASL COURSES

## FOR OUTDOOR PROFESSIONALS

### Courses:

- Numbers of courses: 19
- Number of students: 127
- Level of courses provided:
  - ASL 1- Beginner
  - ASL 2- Intermediate
  - ASL 3- Conversational
- Organizations that took ASL with us this year:
  - USFS- Green Mountain National Forest
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - Northern Arizona University
  - Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
  - Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
  - Washington Conservation Corps

### Project partnership trainings:

- To addition to regular ASL students from outdoor professionals, we also provided ASL courses and trainings for our 2023 conservation corps and program partners!
  - Green Mountain National Forest
  - Vermont Adaptive Sports
  - Pennsylvania department of Conservation and Natural Resources
  - Big Thicket National Preserve
  - San Antonio National Historic Park



# SOL FEST 2023

CORPSTHAT'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



Total number of Trail-a-Thoners and where they joined from



**13** US STATES  
**1** US TERRITORY

**43**  
TRAIL-A-THONERS

WE RAISED  
**\$15,322**

**\$902**  
MOST AMOUNT RAISED BY  
SINGLE TRAIL-A-THONER!

Donations will allow us to:

- Perform yearly van maintenance
- Storage space for van and gear
- Hire 20+ Deaf youth and young adults for our programs

Sol Fest 2023 Sponsors

- Streetcar 82 Brewing Co.
- Corps Network
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota
- Gallaudet University
- B3 Interpreting
- Trail Blazing Interpreting
- Whiskey Whiskers Art
- Baltimore ToolBank
- Signing Starbucks (#23832)
- REI Co-op
- Movement Gym
- Arc'teryx

**RUNNING**  
**WALKING**  
**HIKING**  
**URBAN HIKING**

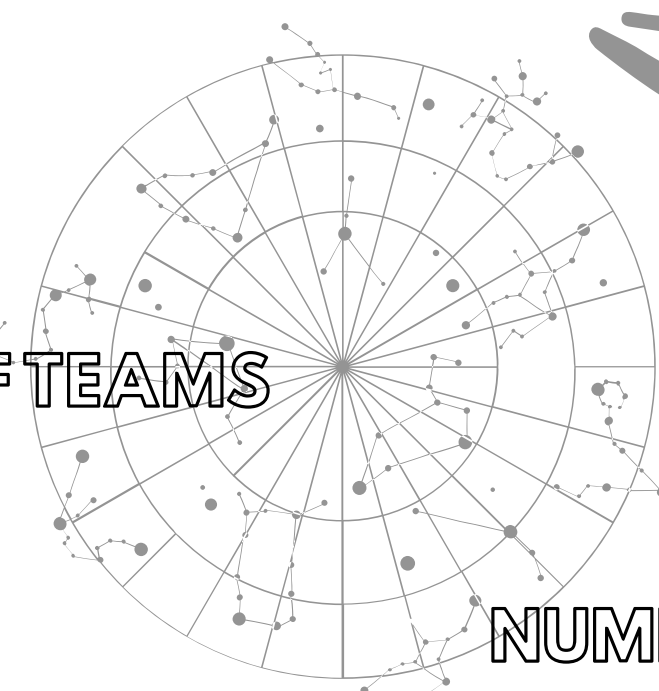
TOTAL MILES  
OUTSIDE **283**



**PICKLE BALL**  
**ROCK CLIMBING**      **STAR GAZING**  
**SNOWBOARDING**      **BIKING**      **ROLLER SKATING**  
**GARDENING**      **DISC GOLF**  
**RUNNING, WALKING, HIKING**      **BIRD WATCHING**  
**DOG WALKING**  
**CANOE CAMPING**      **PORCHING**      **SITTING**

**277**  
TOTAL HOURS  
OUTSIDE

**8**  
NUMBER OF TEAMS



**111**  
NUMBER OF FRIENDS  
JOINED US OUTSIDE

**175**  
NUMBER OF DONORS



### Grants we were awarded:

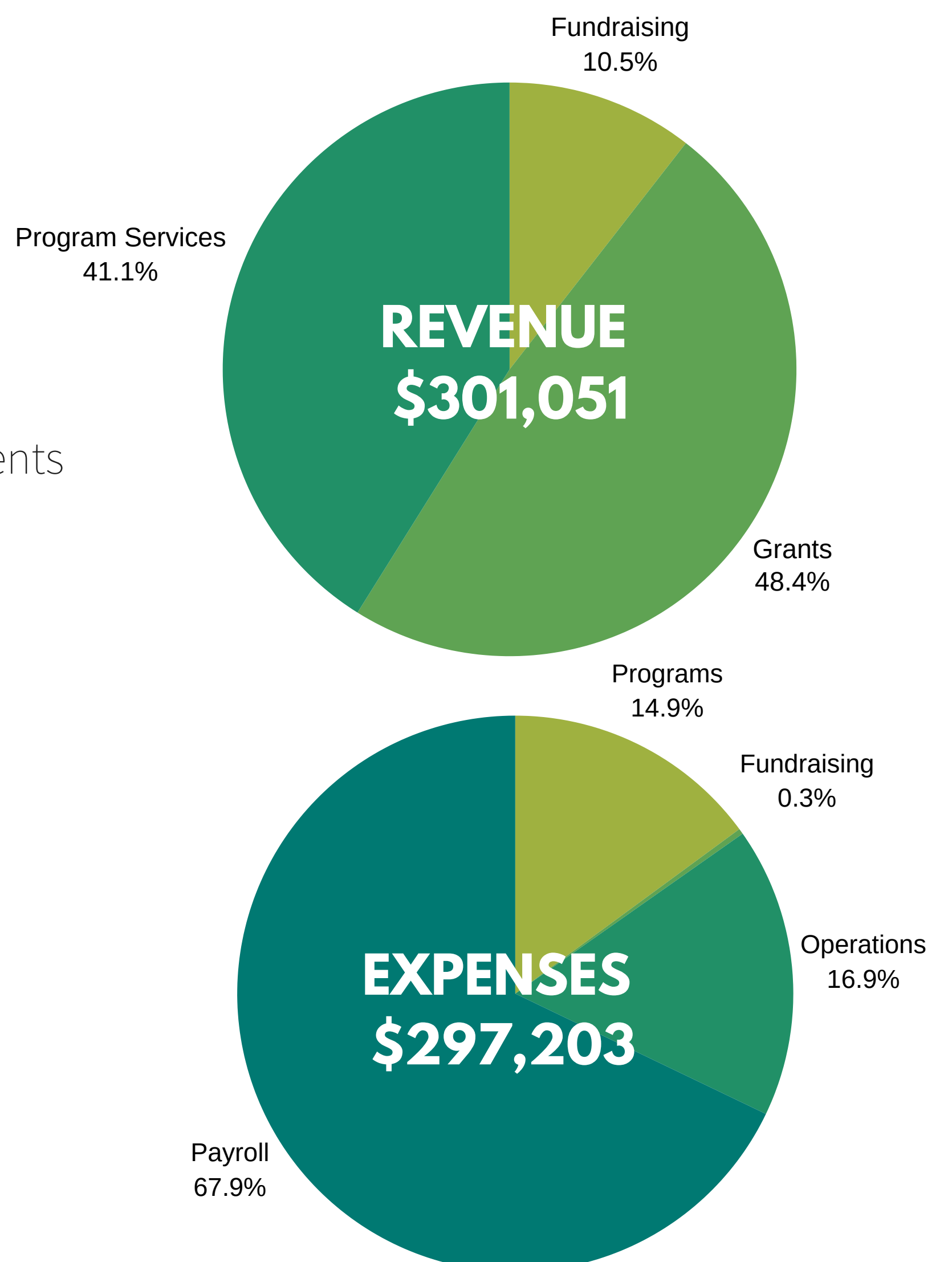
- PeopleForBikes
- REI Cooperative Action Fund
- Arc'teryx: Outer Peace Community Grant

### Donations we received:

- Gossamer Gear Ultra light backpacks and tents
- Moon Valley Farm- Fresh food for our crew
- Birdsong Farm- Fresh food for our crew
- Agriberry Farm- Fresh fruit for our crew
- Arc'Teryx Climbing Harnesses
- NYNJ Trail Conference Campsite
- REI- Rain gear and backpacking kits

### Funds and goods were used for:

- Food budget
- Crew gear supplies
- Transportation
- General programming





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023

All of this was made possible with your support and participation!  
We hope see in the outdoors in 2024!

