



# 2022 IN REVIEW

— APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB —





Long Pond, AMC Maine Woods

# Dear Friends,



**It was a banner year for AMC despite a challenging economy and continuing issues from the pandemic in 2022. To each and every one of you, thank you. Our community is our strength, and your support has helped make us more resilient and adaptable to these external pressures.**

You have much to be proud of, and in the following pages, you can read about some of our most exciting accomplishments from 2022—including expansions in Maine and New York, ambitious trail building projects in New Hampshire, and critical climate research. But what's most meaningful are the moments spent outdoors: seeing New England's darkest skies on our Maine Woods property, experiencing the timeless joy of a White Mountain hut trip, introducing a new generation to the trails whose maintenance you've enabled. When you support AMC, you're helping to create these moments that are at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you, sincerely, for your support. Our community is in everything we do, and I'm so thankful to have you be a part of this beautiful outdoor journey.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Zussman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Nicole Zussman**  
AMC President & CEO

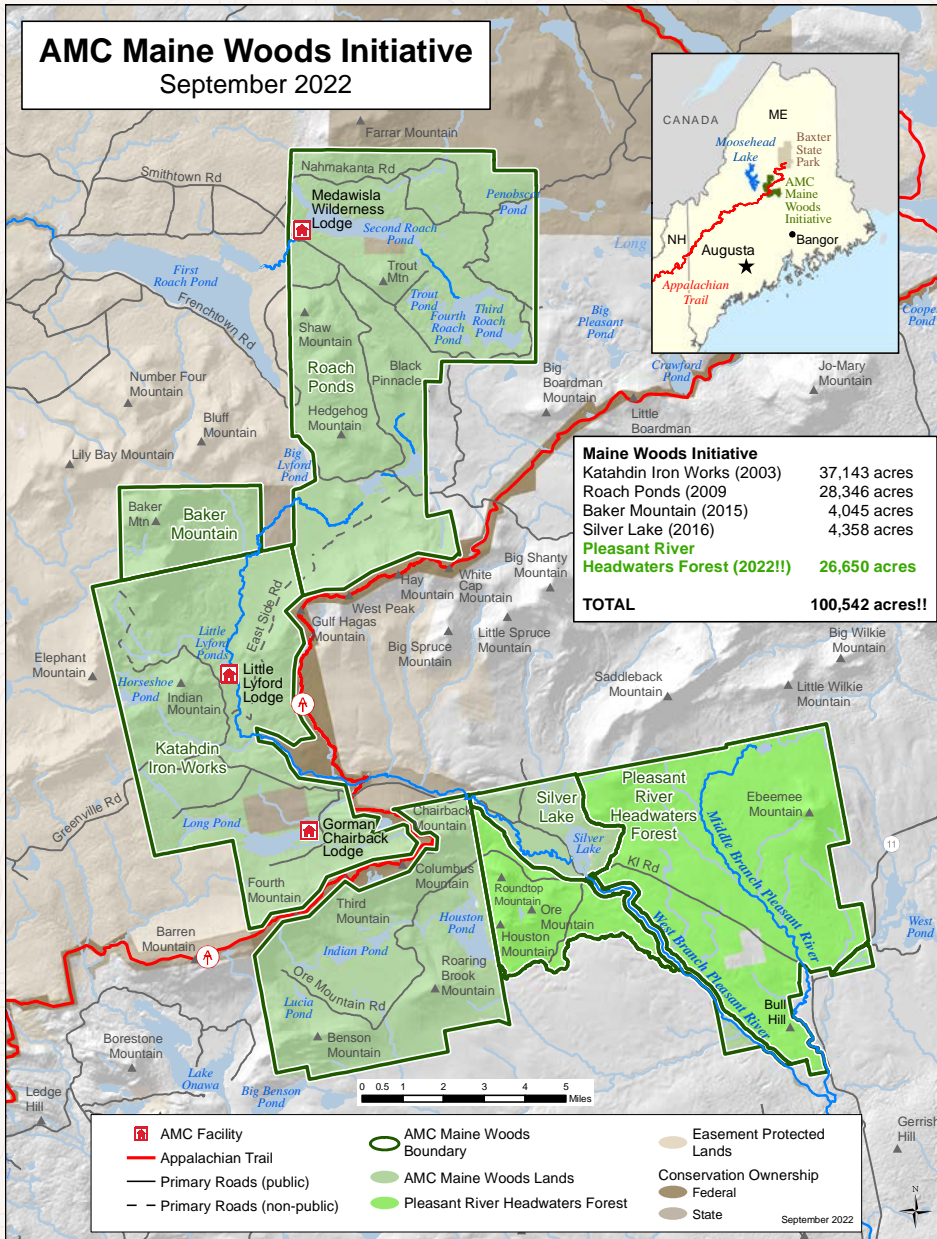


# Protect

**Conservation and recreation are inextricably linked. AMC's conservation efforts are designed to preserve and expand the spaces we love and ensure the future enjoyment of the outdoors for all. Well built and maintained outdoor recreation infrastructure is our best conservation tool.**

# Pleasant River Headwaters Forest

## NOW PROTECTED



AMC reached a significant milestone in 2022: more than 100,000 acres are now permanently conserved in the Maine Woods with our purchase of the nearly 27,000-acre Pleasant River Headwaters Forest. It's hard to overstate the ecological significance of this purchase, which permanently protects one of the last large, previously unprotected, swaths of land in the area.

AMC's Maine Woods lands are part of the largest intact forest east of the Mississippi River, and its conservation is crucial for climate change mitigation and resilience. This land creates more space for sustainable forestry, habitat restoration for signature species like Atlantic salmon and native brook trout, and of course, for the legendary fly-fishing, cross-country skiing, and hiking that are hallmarks of this extraordinary region.

AMC's Maine Woods Initiative Property with PRHF Addition

(Opposite Page) Isaac Crabitree. (This Page) Map by Cathy Poppwimer



Old Bridle Path  
(Before)



Old Bridle Path  
(After)

### Enhancements to the Old Bridle Path in Franconia Notch

In March 2022, \$1.1 million was allocated from the federal government to support a five-year repair and realignment project along the 11.4-mile Franconia Ridge Loop, one of the most popular trails on the White Mountains. AMC is coordinating these efforts under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service, and in 2022 spent four weeks updating the Old Bridle Path (Before and After photos right), including building 82 rock stairs and 10 rock water bars to divert water from the trail.

### AMC AmeriCorps Program Launch

AMC is a proud member of the 21st Century Conservation Corps and partner of The Corps Network. AMC is now one of 130 Corps across the country that provides young adults and veterans the opportunity to serve our country through projects on public lands and in rural and urban communities. 2022 marked AMC's first year with an AmeriCorps Program. Our goals were to teach trail work skills and introduce members to career paths in conservation while doing hands-on service throughout New England.

### Rumney Rocks Improvements

Rumney Rocks Climbing, part of the White Mountain National Forest, is a popular climbing area in Southern New Hampshire. To improve the surrounding trails, AMC trail volunteers helped develop the trails directly below three distinct climbing routes. The project included placing two large belay pads and adjoining steps leading to these pads, as well as building two staircases.

### Looking Ahead

AMC is committed to creating more accessible trails throughout our region. In 2023, we plan to complete the All Persons Trail at Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire and start work on an All Persons Trail at Noble View Outdoor Center in Western Massachusetts.

### AMC TRAIL WORK • BY THE NUMBERS

Our professional trail crews performed a dizzying array of technical trail work in 2022, including:



23,932  
Hours Building/  
Maintaining Trails



25  
Projects



29 Cairns



201 Log  
Steps



178 Rock  
Steps



6 Log  
Ladders



4 Bridges



35 Rock  
Water Bars



132 Blowdowns  
Removed



96 Feet  
of New  
Boardwalk



## Establishing The Philip Trent Fund: AMC's Newest Trails Endowment Fund



Self-proclaimed peak-bagger Philip Trent kept pins and posters, mementos of his adventures hiking mountains across the globe. Fueled by his love of the outdoors and drawn to the camaraderie found in outdoor adventure, Philip spent many years as a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, enjoying trips up and down the East Coast, across the United States, and internationally. He

especially appreciated the beauty of the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

An avid adventurer, Philip believed in being well-prepared, and this legacy will live on in his planned gift to AMC. His generous bequest gift established a new endowment fund in 2022 that will support the repair, maintenance, and relocation of AMC trails in perpetuity, with a special priority on ensuring safe stream crossings.

Trent spent a lot of his spare time with AMC. He often took courses offered through the organization on backpacking, hiking, and canoeing. He always wanted to learn exactly what you needed to do, and how to prepare. A planned gift to AMC gave him the opportunity to do just that.

We are grateful for his foresight and generosity, which will benefit outdoor enthusiasts now and for generations to come.



# Enjoy

Everyone has the capacity to chart their own outdoor journey. AMC empowers them along the way. From shorefronts to mountain peaks, recreational opportunities must be as diverse as the interests and abilities of those who love the outdoors.



## Cautious Openings

The scene inside AMC's huts and lodges this year resembled a return to normalcy, with packed bunkhouses and plenty of stories to share at the dinner table. While concerns about COVID-19 remained prevalent, our staff and volunteers took every precaution to keep guests safe. Without their hard work and vigilance, AMC could not provide so many memorable experiences throughout the year.



Stargazing in the  
Maine Woods

## See the Dark Festival

Our first annual See the Dark festival, sponsored by Allagash Brewing, was held October 16-23, 2022, providing guests at Medawisla Lodge in Maine with week-long events dedicated to observing and learning about the night sky. Not unlike the connections that humans have made between stars to create stories with constellations, the friendships and bonds between visitors and presenters that were shaped during this festival provided value far beyond the actual experience. Most attendees were first timers to AMC and Medawisla, helping us to achieve our goal of using this amazing

awe-inspiring dark sky experience to connect a new audience of outdoor enthusiasts to our amazing landscape! The success of this event serves as a model for future themed weeks.

## Shelter Dedication

In June of 2022 the new shelter on Horsehoe Pond in AMC's Maine Woods was dedicated and formally opened for use. It's a wonderful tribute to all that Andrew Norkin, AMC director of trails for over 21 years, brought to generations of AMCers across our region. It was made possible through generous support of the Worcester, Boston, and Maine Chapters of the AMC. Interim President and CEO Susan Arnold led the small ceremony where people were invited to share stories of Andrew and his work. We are proud of all that he achieved and hope that this well-built shelter will live up to his life's work of facilitating outdoor experiences for all for years to come.

## Lynda Cohen Performing Arts Series

The Lynda Cohen Performing Arts Series celebrated its second year bringing the community together for evenings full of lively music in July and August. The series is made possible thanks to generous support from President's Society member Lynda Cohen. Learn more about 2023 performances at [amcmusic.eventbrite.com](https://amcmusic.eventbrite.com).

## Looking Ahead

Looking for a community event that caters to your interests? This year we're offering four themed weeks at our Maine Woods lodges—in addition to repeating our successful See the Dark festival, we're also hosting weeks for fly-fishing, birding, and gravel biking. Learn more at [outdoors.org/MaineWeeks](https://outdoors.org/MaineWeeks).

## AMC'S NEW HAMPSHIRE HUTS IN 2022...

### HOSTED

 29,000+  
Guests

### EDUCATED

 10,786+  
Visitors

### WELCOMED

 37,000+  
Day Hikers

### INFORMED

 1,429+  
People

### SHELTERED

 1,600+  
Thru-Hikers

At AMC, we seek to foster the growth of an engaged community with a passion for the outdoors. Building partnerships is essential in securing sustained access to and the preservation of the outdoors. Communities surrounding outdoor recreation areas play a vital role in the continued vitality of recreation opportunities and conservation efforts. Their success is our success.

we serve and enable more people to experience the numerous benefits of spending time outdoors, including mental and physical health, improved confidence, and increased appreciation of nature. The Outdoor Journey Fund holds promise for a sea-change in terms of who participates, leads, and grows in the outdoors with AMC.

### Rumney Together

This inaugural festival welcomed more than 100 climbers to Rumney, N.H. in June, providing programming and outdoor excursions that would deepen conversations around how socioeconomic barriers permeate the climbing industry and what actionable steps outdoor groups like AMC can take to make climbing more engaging with diverse populations. The festival was hosted by the New Hampshire and New York–North Jersey Chapters of AMC. Partners of the event included AMC volunteers, Black Diamond, American Alpine Club and Climb United, Access Fund, Rumney Climbers Association, Para-cliffhangers, Ladies Climbing Coalition, and Indigenous Field Guide. Learn more about the event at [outdoors.org/RumneyTogether](https://outdoors.org/RumneyTogether).



### Outdoor Journey Fund

With seed funding from L.L. Bean, AMC fully launched the Outdoor Journey Fund, designed to provide outdoor experiences for groups that face significant barriers to outdoor participation. In 2022, AMC provided programming and lodging for refugees from Afghanistan, students in rural Maine, and a young black men mentorship program designed to build leadership skills. The Outdoor Journey Fund allows AMC to broaden the constituency

### Looking Ahead

AMC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Volunteer Committee is offering an online DEI Speaker Series, generously sponsored by the Boston, Western Massachusetts, and Worcester Chapters. Each month will feature a different speaker who will raise awareness about the truth of what people are experiencing outdoors and with AMC when they come from underrepresented groups. The goal of this series is to amplify what DEI activism looks like in the outdoors and conservation and encourage change within AMC. All events are free, open to the public, and will be posted in our Activities Database, [activities.outdoors.org](https://activities.outdoors.org).

(This Page) Outdoor Journey photo courtesy of Guided Outdoors, (Opposite Page) Corey McMullen



## AMC GUIDED OUTDOORS • BY THE NUMBERS

One of the key ways that AMC helps get people outdoors is through providing guided adventures that are led by our professional guide staff and tailored to individual needs. In 2022, we saw a rebound from recent pandemic years, including:

**3,769 participants** in Youth Custom Adventures, including a Mountain Classroom.



**1,303 participants** in Adult, Family and Custom Adventures.



**347 guests and participants** supported by AMC Outdoor Journey Fund.

A group of about seven people are hiking on a dirt path through a dense forest. In the foreground, a stream flows, its surface reflecting the surrounding trees and foliage. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees, some with yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The people are dressed in outdoor gear, including jackets, hats, and backpacks. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

# Understand

Knowledge strengthens our ability to connect with and understand the outdoors. AMC enables shared expertise to support people of all ages and backgrounds in their pursuit of outdoor experiences. We cater to anyone interested in expanding their knowledge and skills in outdoor activities, naturalist and scientific topics, stewardship, and conservation advocacy.

## IN 2022, EDUCATORS OUTDOORS



Led **438 outdoor experiences.**



Helped develop **7,551 youth experiences.**



Trained **211 educators.**

(80% coming from under represented communities, and 82% identifying as Black, Indigenous and People of Color).



Participants on an Outdoors Leadership Training trip

### Educators Outdoors

Educators Outdoors is the outdoor education and professional development program of AMC. With the goal of equitable access to the outdoors, it offers a series of Outdoor Leadership Trainings across our region for educators from schools and youth organizations in lower-income communities and communities of color. These training courses focus on the technical skills and leadership development needed to successfully lead outdoor experiences for young people. In 2022, Educators Outdoors piloted its first BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Outdoor Leadership Training for Educators. Educators Outdoors also led in collaboration with the Volunteer Relations Team and the Boston Chapter a family camping event for nine families from our Educators Outdoors Partner, Community Day Charter Public School (K-8) of Lawrence in Harold Parker State Forest.

### Advancing Outdoor Services in Harriman State Park

In 2022, AMC piloted Ladders to the Outdoors: A Partnership to Advance Outdoor Engagement at Harriman State Park (HSP) in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and New York State Parks/Palisades Interstate Parks Commission (PIPC). Through this initiative, AMC staff designed and delivered interpretive programs at Reeves Visitor Center and two HSP campgrounds to deepen visitor engagement with, and appreciation for, the outdoors; remove barriers to promote more equitable outdoor participation; and offer stewardship education and information to help people minimize their impact on the natural environment. Staff were equipped with Naturalist Program boxes with a variety of materials to support active hands-on and user-friendly programming for youth and adults connecting outdoor skills and conservation. By improving and diversifying interactive programs and displays, our naturalists were able to engage a total of nearly 7,400 visitors from all three locations in short, focused programs delivered in English and Spanish.

### Looking Ahead

AMC continues to partner with NHT, PIPC and NY State Parks to expand delivery of day programs that encourage safe, responsible outdoor recreation, and weave in Leave No Trace principles throughout Harriman State Park. We are also busy developing the new Baker Outdoor Center, with a groundbreaking set for May 2023. Learn more at [outdoors.org/baker](https://outdoors.org/baker).

**Science matters, especially when it comes to addressing climate change. AMC's dedicated staff of research scientists work to understand how air and water pollution affect the natural world and to identify ways to protect the vital ecosystems where we recreate.**

### **iNaturalist Plant Tracking Along the Appalachian Trail**

Plant phenology, or the timing of seasonal growth, flowering, and fruiting, can be used as a helpful bioindicator of climate change. Crowdsourcing citizen science offers one method of collecting plant phenology across the diverse landscape along the Appalachian Trail (AT). Using the network of community scientists, naturalists, and biologists on the iNaturalist app, crowdsourced photo observations of commonly found flowering plant species were compiled by AMC staff into the project and analyzed for trends and shifts in phenology along the AT corridor, which spans over 6,500 feet in elevation and 11 degrees of latitude. In 2022 the AT iNaturalist project added 10,391 new observations advancing overall project observations of our target plant species to a total of 18,856 across the AT Corridor.

### **Community Snow Observations**

AMC's Research Department is combining daily snow observations from AMC huts and Pinkham Notch with data from Community Snow Observations, a non-profit program that pools user-submitted snow data from citizen scientists around the world. The initiative is aiding AMC scientists in their work to understand how winters in the White Mountains are changing,

and what that means for everything from avalanche safety to the unique plants and animals that call the region home. AMC researchers aim to expand Community Snow Observations to other parts of the Northeast. Conclusions drawn from this research will be shared with advocates and policy makers alike.

### **MWI Climate Sensors**

AMC's Research Department with partner scientists from the University of Vermont, University of New Hampshire, and University of Maine installed climate sensors on our Maine Woods Initiative (MWI) property in the summer of 2022. Together, the three sensor setups cover MWI from south to north and complement our sensors in the White Mountains:

1. Sensors were installed along three transects that will be measuring microclimatological parameters in complex landscapes like those at MWI. The MWI arrays are part of a larger project across NH, VT, and ME to assess potential for cold air pooling and other microclimate phenomena in mountain areas.
2. Two sensors near the KI Road and Little Lyford Lodge will provide long-term data networked to other sensor nodes around the Northeast, part of an NSF-funded project called INSPIRES.
3. Two microstations were installed to automate datalogging of air and soil temperature—as well as snow stakes to monitor climate at two different forest locations near Medawisla Lodge.



## 2022 Advocacy Accomplishments

In September 2022, AMC launched a new bike route for the 230-mile Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway (BCT) in Greater Boston. The bike route includes unpaved, hybrid, and paved riding surfaces. The bike route can be accessed via the BCT interactive map, guides, and the Trail Forks App.

On December 5, 2022, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created a new Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC). Massachusetts joins 17 other states around the country including ME, VT, NH, PA, MD, and VA, that have created similar offices. AMC led the campaign to create this new office working with non-profit and outdoor recreation partners.

In late December 2022, Congress released the 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill included funding for the following projects:

- The Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act, which helps fund permanent land protection

for conservation in the four-state Highlands region of PA, NJ, NY, & CT. AMC leads the Highlands Coalition and led this legislative initiative. The Highlands program protects key parcels of land and has been instrumental in the region as a tool for accessing federal funding for land protection. The bill also allows for some changes to the program that will modernize and improve its approach.

- Quakertown Rail with Trail project to support the design and engineering of the trail that will connect to nearly 12 miles of existing off-road multi-use trails that make up the PA Highlands Trail to the north and south. AMC led the federal funding request for this project, which will now be managed by Bucks County.

### Looking Ahead

AMC is excited to finalize two projects in 2023: The PA Highlands Trail Equity and Accessibility Assessment and the PA Highlands Trail Strategic Plan.

# Financials

In 2022, AMC returned to full operations for the first time since COVID-19. While earned revenues grew from 2021 and exceeded pre-COVID numbers, we fell short on budgeted revenue, mostly in our Outdoor Program Centers, where group business was still impacted by the pandemic. Higher costs in our facilities to carry out regular operations were impacted by the unexpected 40-year highs in inflation, driving our non-staff costs to a record high resulting in expense overage compared to budget. We suffered from hospitality-wide industry issues of staffing shortages and increased wage pressure. Despite the financial challenges, running the full complement of our mission-based activities was an important milestone in 2022.

## Current AMC Board of Directors

### Officers

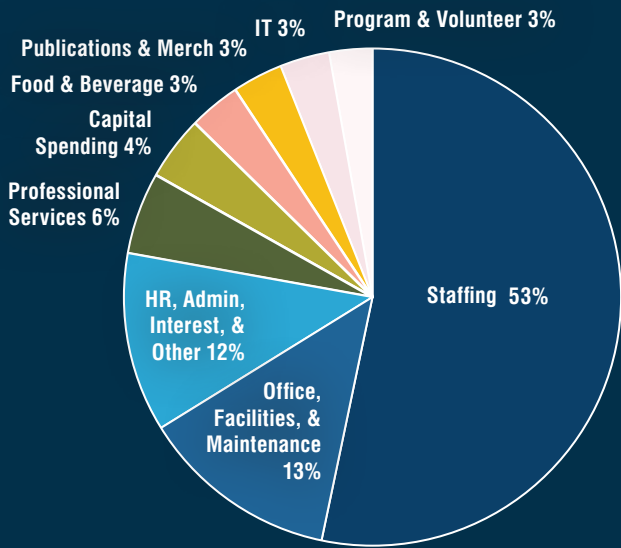
Yvette Austin Smith, Chair  
Laurie Gabriel, Vice Chair  
Stephen Rushmore, Jr., Vice Chair  
Martha (Marty) Wallace, Secretary  
Kathy Campbell, Treasurer

Robert W. Ackerman	Dee Dee Mozeleski Samarjit Shankar
Charlie Arsenault, Regional Director (Central Region)	William B. Tyree Jenna Whitney, Regional Director (Eastern Region)
Scott Barringer	Nick Wilkoff
Richard Batiuk, Regional Director (Southern Region)	Eileen Yin, Regional Director (Mid- Atlantic Region)
Shalin Desai	Beth Zimmer, Regional Director (Northern Region)
Birgitta C. Dickerson	Nicole Zussman, President and CEO
Cheryl Duckworth	
Shan Soe-Lin Hecht	

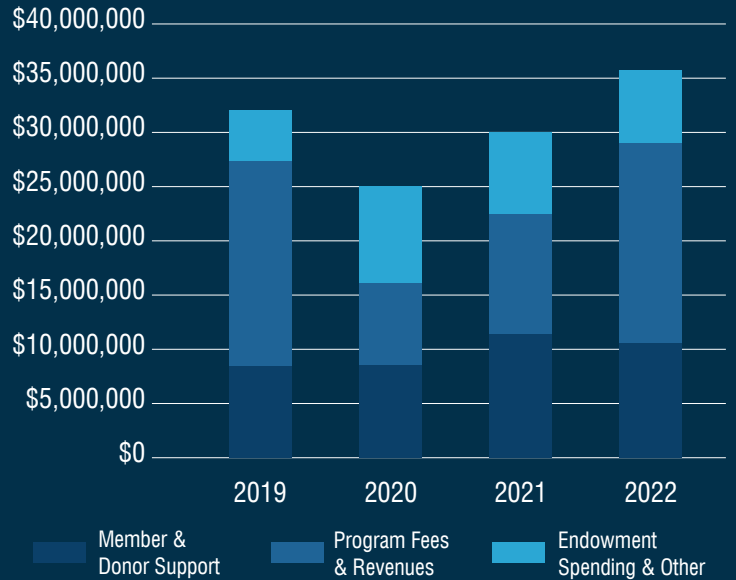
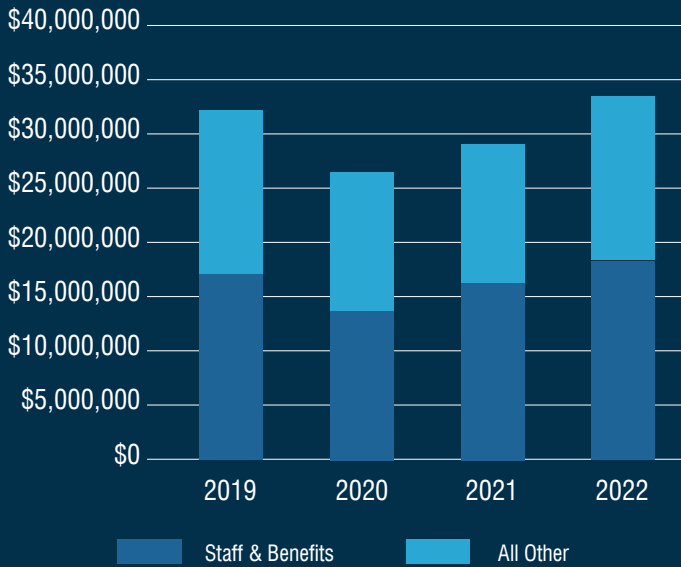
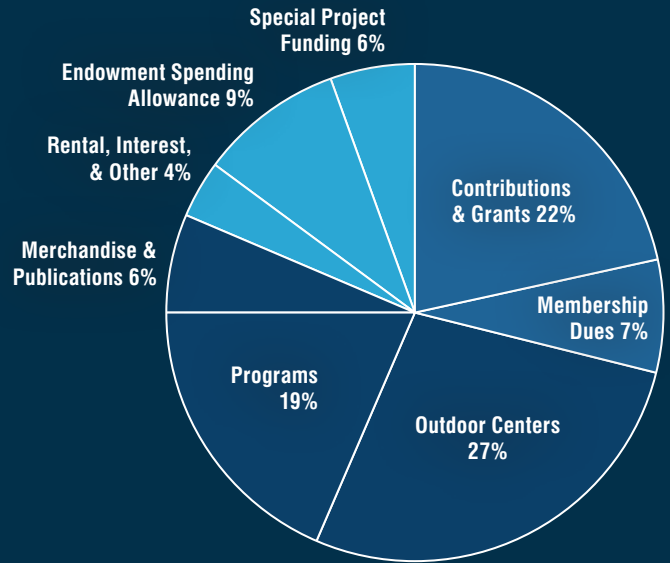
For biographies, visit AMC's website at [outdoors.org/leadership](https://www.outdoors.org/leadership).



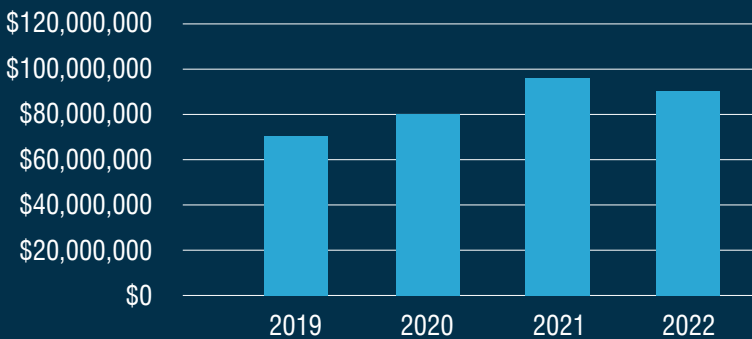
OPERATING EXPENSE



OPERATING REVENUE



ENDOWMENT



The results presented have not been audited as of press time; for audited results as they become available, visit AMC's website at [www.outdoors.org/financials](http://www.outdoors.org/financials).



Maine Beer Company



We gratefully acknowledge these companies who are a part of our corporate membership program for their commitment to supporting AMC's mission.



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**The mission** of the Appalachian Mountain Club is to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors.

[outdoors.org](https://www.outdoors.org)