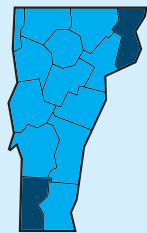




WINTER 2026
YOUTH PROGRAMS
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**CATAMOUNT
TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**



2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

Winter 2026 was certainly one for the books! The fantastic snow, paired with smiling faces from the CTA Youth Programs participants, made it a memorable one. This was the 15th year of the Ski Cubs program, and we were excited to see our programs spread across the state in **30 communities and 12 of Vermont's 14 Counties**. After running some numbers this year, we were excited to learn that over **6% of 3rd through 8th graders** in Vermont ski with us!

Last year, we reached a huge milestone by skiing with 2,000 students, and this year, our numbers stayed consistent. Despite the same number, **we added 450 new students and 7 new schools to our program**, reaching students in far corners of the state. Our largest program, Rutland Intermediate School, took a one-year hiatus due to staffing (we'll see you next year!), which resulted in a drop of 500 returning students. However, expansion in our existing programs and the addition of new schools allowed us to offset that gap, get more new kids on skis than ever before, and help create a more sustainable program.

Our numbers are exciting, but so are the intangible experiences of Ski Cubs, and that was very evident this year with the great weather we had. Our programs are designed to be both multisession and multiyear experiences, so students can fully immerse themselves in skiing during Vermont winters. **It was amazing to see the graduating 6th graders I've been working with for the past four years really come into their own as skiers. Like the student who wholeheartedly disliked winter and couldn't stand up or ski two feet without falling over, now gliding past me and skiing 2 miles in their 45-minute PE class!** It's winters like this one that remind us of the power of the outdoors and the impact the CTA has by investing in Vermont's next generation of Nordic skiers.

Courtney Dickerson
Programs Director



CATAMOUNT TRAIL YOUTH PROGRAMS

For more than a decade, the CTA has run youth learn-to-ski Nordic programs in communities across Vermont. These programs are tailored to each community, but all share a common mission of reducing barriers to entry, connecting students to their local landscape, promoting exercise and outdoor play, and building community. All programs are free, share a common curriculum, and offer a minimum of four sessions each winter. In 2026, CTA youth programs ran in 30 communities across Vermont.

FOUR WEEKS Average Program Length	88% of New Students had Never Skied Before	2-4 YEARS Average Time Skiing With CTA
1906 School Program Participants	80 Ski Cubs Participants	114 Youth Program Days

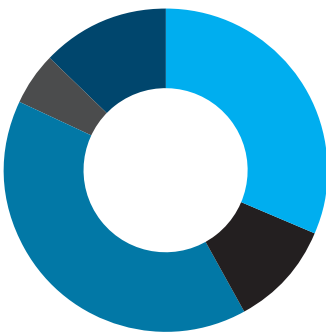
"We had so much fun with this program, and hope we can join you again next year. My child went from being completely opposed to cross-country skiing to loving it even more than downhill. We're so grateful to the CTA and volunteers for making it happen!"






- Anna T., Ski Cubs Parent



SKI CUBS SATURDAY

SKI CUBS Saturday program is CTA's flagship youth learn-to-ski program that primarily serves BIPOC students from 15 schools in the greater Burlington area. Ski Cubs runs on Saturday mornings during January and February, and is hosted at the Catamount Outdoor Family Center. Students receive instruction, equipment, trail passes, snacks, and transportation to the program — all at no cost to participants. With help from our staff, interns, and dedicated volunteer instructors, we aim to keep group sizes small and provide individualized lessons to students learning to ski for the first time.



	African American	30%
	Asian American	10%
	White	38%
	Hispanic/Latino	5%
	Multiethnic	12%

“When I teach cross-country skiing, I try to bring something familiar into a brand new experience—last year, simply chatting in Spanish turned a tough day into a joyful glide. Having gone through that transition myself, it’s important to me to make Ski Cubs a place where kids feel seen and supported as they learn.”

– Renzo Silva, Ski Cubs Volunteer & CTA Board Member

SKI CUBS PROGRAM SCHOOLS & PARTNERS

Baird School
Catamount Outdoor Family Center
Champlain Elementary
Colchester Middle School
C.P. Smith Elementary School
Edmunds Middle School
Essex Middle/High School
Gertrude Chamberlin School
Grand Isle Elementary

Integrated Arts Academy
JFK Elementary
Lyman C. Hunt Middle School
Mallets Bay School
O'Brien Community Center
Shelburne Community School
Sustainability Academy
Winooski Middle/High School

OVER 60% OF STUDENTS ARE BIPOC

80

Ski Cubs
Participants

4:1

Student - Teacher
Ratio

20

Volunteer
Instructors

83% OF NEW SKI CUBS HAD NEVER SKIED BEFORE

50

Avg Students Per
Ski Cubs Session

41%

Returning Students

50%

Attended 4+
Ski Days

LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ Continue to grow our mentorship program for older Ski Cubs participants to serve as leaders for younger students.
- ◆ Increase outreach in classrooms to ESL (English as a Second Language) or multilingual students.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



School Programs take place during the school day or after school, and primarily serve students in 3rd-8th grade. Our school programs provide opportunities for youth to get outside during the school day by integrating cross-country skiing into the curriculum, both during PE and regular classroom times. CTA staff transport skis directly to the school, allowing students to explore natural areas around their community. Our programs are designed as multi-year learn-to-ski experiences; we work with several grades per school, allowing students to start as beginners and progress through the years. Our goal for these school programs is to partner with schools in rural communities where access to cross-country skiing is limited.

SCHOOL PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alburgh Community School
Barre City Elementary
Beeman Elementary School
Brewster Pierce Memorial School
Bristol Elementary School
Craftsbury Schools
Eden Central School
Edmunds Middle School
Fair Haven Elementary/High School
Franklin Central School
Hardwick Elementary School
Hinesburg Community School

JFK Elementary
Kingdom East School District
Lincoln Community School
Monkton Central School
Robinson Elementary School
Sharon Elementary School
Twin Valley Elementary School
Walden Elementary
Wardsboro Elementary School
Williamstown Elementary School
Wolcott Elementary
Youthbuild Burlington



"Students had a great time - to the point that I had a student come to me today saying he's been watching the XC skiing at the Olympics."

- Winooski High School Teacher

1906

School Program
Participants

23

Unique School
Programs

92%

Only Get to Ski at
School with CTA

88% OF NEW STUDENTS WERE FIRST-TIME SKIERS

72%

Receive Free Or Reduced
School Lunch

7

New Programs for the
2026 Program Year

"I wish I could ski everyday, it's my favorite part of school!"

- JFK 3rd grader

"It was amazing to see the progress made over 5 sessions! So sweet to believe we may have had a part in promoting a lifelong love of the sport."

- Deb Weizenegger, Ski Cubs Volunteer



**CATAMOUNT
TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**

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Thank you to our members, donors, and the following organizations for making these programs possible:

