

A Note from Our Executive Director

A week into the Ruby Run Tour celebrating the CTA's 40th Anniversary last winter, I was lucky enough to get to join up with the crew in the Mt. Tabor area to ski Section 8. After days of dodging open water crossings and skiing in thin, icy, crusty conditions, it had finally snowed the night before and the group was rewarded with a brilliant, sunny, powder day. The sense of relief was palpable, smiles abounded, and sun streamed through the trees. Last ski season no doubt underscored that the challenges ahead for winter, and those of us who love sliding on snow, are not to be underestimated. But, skiing past Moses Pond late in the day with the Ruby Runners, it was powerful to be reminded that even tough seasons include a lot of great days on the trail.



The CTA continues to work diligently to ensure that we can all make the most of the snow each season. In 2023, our trail work efforts to improve the climate resiliency of the Catamount Trail through drainage improvements, turnpiking, bridges, and other infrastructure hit an inflection point. Thanks to your support, grants, and partnerships, we were able to channel over \$100,000 in direct investments into the trail last year, in addition to thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time.

Volunteers and contractors completed numerous projects on Sections 6 and 7. A replacement bridge in the Mad River Valley was built larger to withstand extreme flooding events that have become more common. Contractors completed a suite of improvements around Grout Pond, and a crew from UVM spent several days near Lake Elmore cutting in water bars and drainage ditches on a perennially wet section of the trail there. Those improvements paid immediate dividends last winter by improving the skiing on the trail in low snow conditions, and it is work that we are continuing this summer, with similar projects moving forward on Sections 1, 2, 4, and 15.

Beyond the trail we continued to push for new chapters and expanded backcountry access across Vermont. The recently published Vermont Backcountry Handbook, which created new standards for backcountry ski zone development, has garnered national attention and is serving as a model for statewide efforts to develop best management practices for trails. And, despite the challenging snow conditions, CTA Youth Programs saw record participation again last year.

After making the hard decision to end their ski at the Trapp Family Lodge last winter, the Ruby Run crew will be back on the trail to complete the final 10 sections of the trail next season, and we hope you'll join them for a day (or more!). We also have ambitious plans to continue expanding our Youth Programs to more communities across the state, and we are in the final planning stages for a major conservation campaign – one that will be central to protecting the future of the trail in the coming decades.

Here's to an exciting year ahead. See you on the trail!

Matt Williams, CTA Executive Director

Join - Volunteer - Donate

Our Mission

The Catamount Trail Association's mission is to expand access to Vermont's backcountry and expand equitable access to skiing. Through building trails, community, and opportunity we connect people to Vermont's mountain landscape.

Catamount Trail Staff

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Kim Quinlan, Communications and Engagement Coordinator

Erin O'Neill, Business Manager
Courtney Dickerson, Trail and Programs Director

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2023-24 SEASON

Annual Report



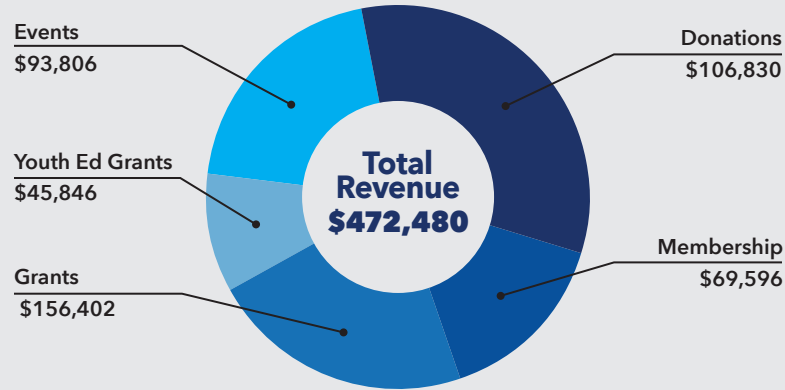
CTA YEAR IN REVIEW

2240 Total Membership

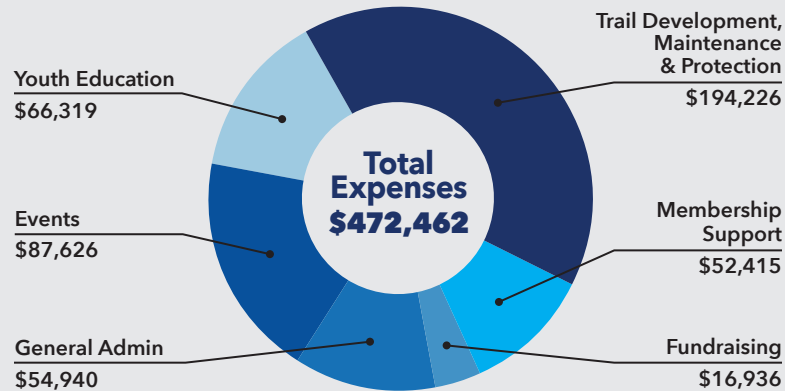
1387
CTA Members

853
CTA Chapter Members

Organization Revenue



Organization Expenses



The Catamount Trail Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. This financial information is unaudited. Once completed, final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report will be available on request.



CTA FUN FACT

Chris Burnham sets a new Fastest Known Time (FKT) on the Catamount Trail!
6 days 10 hours and 31 minutes

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS ON THE CATAMOUNT TRAIL!



Last season, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary with The Ruby Run Tour and a special anniversary party held at the Trapp Family Lodge. Catamount Trail Founders, Steve Bushey, Ben Rose, and Paul Jarris planned to ski all 31 sections of the trail over a 35 day period beginning on February 8th and ending on March 14th for the Ruby Run Tour. The crew made it through Section 22, but decided to postpone the rest of the tour due to conditions. It was a tough snow year, but they made the best of it and got to share the experience with many folks that joined them to ski sections along the way. There are plans to complete the rest of the end-to-end tour this winter!

TRAILS & CONSERVATION



A new bridge in Fayston highlighted our trail work in 2023 and led to a new trail easement.

Over **\$100,000** invested in trail maintenance and improvement projects to enhance the skiing experience on the Catamount Trail.

2 New or Expanded Parking Lots	0.8 Miles of Trail Protected	3 Completed Trail Protection Projects
4000 Volunteer Trail Work Hours	253 Private Land Partners	

CTA TOURS & EVENTS PARTICIPATION

Community Events	301
Ruby Run Tour	153
Skimo	133
Splitfest	80
Multi- and Single-Day Tours	170



Improved drainage and built turnpiking to improve the skiing in low snow conditions on over 3 miles of trail.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Saturday Ski Cubs Program, which serves primarily BIPOC and multilingual students, saw a record 80 participants in 2024.

Our youth programs ran in **21** communities across Vermont, and provided opportunities for **1,375** Youth Program participants.

32 Partner Schools Participate	90% First-Time Skiers	9 Counties with CTA Programs
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"The Ski Cubs program provides an amazing opportunity for kids to move their bodies outside during one of the most beautiful times of the year, while also teaching them to step out of their comfort zones and practice resilience. It is so exciting to watch these kids develop skills in a new sport and celebrate each success with them along the way."

Sofie Carlson, Ski Cubs Volunteer