Dear AHS Supporters,

In many ways, 2021 was a build-back year for American Hiking just as it was for you. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we were obliged to cancel all but two Alternative Break trips and all Volunteer Vacations. We also chose, in alignment with our Commitment to All Hikers, to cancel our promotion of National Trails Day® in 2020 (which we’d already quickly reworked to be all virtual due to COVID). Thankfully, the advent of COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021 meant we could field Volunteer Vacations crews, though many fewer than normal while also updating safety protocols. And, we got National Trails Day® back up and running with an enormous online celebration, even if the number of in-person events was reduced. Being able to promote in-person hiking was indeed a boon of the latter part of 2021!

Throughout the challenging context of the last two years, AHS has persevered because of your support. AHS NextGen Trail Leaders pushed advocacy forward through social media campaigns, participated in Volunteer Vacations, led National Trails Day® events, and pursued professional development opportunities funded by AHS. The all-virtual 2021 Hike the Hill® brought more trail advocates to the table, as a unified team, than ever before. Throughout the rest of the year, AHS continued to lead national coalitions focused on funding for and equity in the outdoors; submitted testimony to the House and Senate in support of increased trails funding; fought for trail and hiking inclusive provisions within the Build Back Better Act (including $650 million for trails and roads, $350 million for expanded access and urban parks, funding for the Civilian Climate Corps and other climate resilience efforts, and potential new grant funding for the Recreational Trails Program); and pushed for the reintroduction of the Outdoors for All and Transit to Trails Acts. Despite a bitterly partisan environment in Congress, AHS and our allies have been able to connect with both sides of the aisle to forge bipartisan collaboration thanks to your participation by making your voice heard.

Our volunteer programs continued to evolve as well. We recruited new crew leaders and crew hosts and are looking forward to creating a brand new, robust crew leader training program that will recruit younger folks from a diversity of backgrounds. We have been transforming AHS fundraising as well, building stronger relationships with all donors no matter the size of the gift, continuing to diversify our funding sources, and educating our team in building a people-focused culture of philanthropy. We have also spent 2021 building a stronger, more diverse, more engaged social media follower base to strive for even bigger national advocacy wins and build an even stronger sense of community among hikers of all identities. That concerted, strategic effort resulted in National Trails Day® 2021 reaching a whopping 45 million people on social media, a 40% increase in the number of NTD Pledge takers, and more cause-focused content shares – all despite the reduced number of in-person events. NTD is quickly becoming recognized across the country as a national day of service for trails and the hiking community.

2022 is going to be our best year yet, thanks to your committed, ongoing support. Please know we are grateful!

Happy hiking,

Kathryn (Kate) Van Waes
Executive Director
(she/her/hers)

Sarah Baker Morgan
Board Chair
(she/her/hers)
2021 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY WINS

- At (the virtual) Hike the Hill, 150+ trail leaders advocated to Members of Congress and Federal agency leaders for trails, public lands, and equitable access.
- Successfully pushed to put Hiking Priorities in Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and Build Back Better Act.
- AHS Executive Director Kate Van Waes testified in support of $100+M increase in trail funding!
- AHS pushed for reintroduction of the Transit to Trails Act and the Outdoors for All Act, and Members of Congress featured AHS in their press releases.
- Transit to Trails Act and the Outdoors for All Act advanced in House of Representatives as part of the INVEST Act.
- Partnered in support of the Recreational Trails Program, Outdoors Alliance for Kids, and other coalitions!
- Guided Administration efforts to address Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities in outdoor recreation.
The continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic required changing our annual in-person advocacy event in Washington, DC to a virtual event. We saw this as a silver lining opportunity for greater participation from across the country by eliminating travel expenses. In collaboration with our longstanding co-host, the Partnership for the National Trails System, AHS coordinated and led meetings with key federal agency leaders, Members of Congress, and Congressional Committees to advance shared trail priorities.

In preparation for this impactful advocacy week, we held trainings on: Implementing the Great American Outdoors Act; promoting Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in legislative and Administration policies and priorities; how to push funding for trails in Appropriations (the Congressional budgeting process); and how trails fit into Congressional and Administration priorities, projects, and policies regarding transportation and infrastructure. AHS also outfitted Hike the Hill participants with pro tips on holding virtual meetings with Congress and Administration leaders.

American Hiking Society’s NextGen Trail Leaders (NGTL) also kicked off their year-long partnership with AHS by joining Hike the Hill®. They began with an advocacy training session, where they learned the basics of advocacy, practiced meeting with Congressional staff, and developed their personal pitch on the importance of the outdoors to them. Each NGTL took this opportunity to meet their elected officials’ staff to support the Transit to Trails and Outdoors for All Acts and increased funding for trails. To energize other emerging leaders, the NextGen Trail Leaders shared their experiences on social media and the AHS blog.

HIKE THE HILL GOES VIRTUAL IN 2021
The fourth class of NextGen Trail Leaders (NGTLs) energized emerging leaders across the country in advocacy, communications, and stewardship!

In June, NGTLs activated their local communities in American Hiking Society National Trails Day® (NTD) events. NGTL Satya organized a hike and afterparty at a local brewery in the Evergreen, CO area. REI and the U.S. forest Service invited NGTL Shira to share their experiences volunteering and highlighting NTD as a day of service.

As part of deepening the NextGen program, AHS funded two Trail Leaders, Irene and Shira, to join AHS Volunteer Vacation crews. Irene shared her experienced on YouTube, inspiring the next generation of trail stewards.

Increased staff support for the NextGen Trail Leader program has allowed AHS to more closely tailor the partnership for each participant and engage more fully year-round. This included new quarterly calls that connected the NGTLs with the broader AHS community, including board members and NGTL alumni, for collaboration, support, mentoring, and networking.

“I got to participate in a volunteer vacation with American Hiking Society and we spent an entire week in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. I’m an avid hiker, but this was my first time doing something of this nature. I decided to go on this volunteer trip so that I can learn more about the trails and give my time and energy into protecting it. We did so much in one week! I met some amazing people and together we cleaned up seven recreation sites, dismantled and cleaned up some illegal campfire sites and installed fifty-one checked dams. Everything we did was to ensure that the forest was well protected, create space for vegetation to grow and to encourage responsible recreation. Special thank you AHS for making this trip possible for me. It was an exhausting but very rewarding experience. This experience pushed me to go outside of my comfort zone and expanded my knowledge about trails, something that I use very often. I got to see the trails and the outdoor spaces from a different perspective. I’m thankful for this opportunity and I’m looking forward to doing more work on the trails in the future.” - Irene

Satya Akquia
(she/her)
@pencil.and.boots

Irene Ogeto
(she/her)
@blackhikingqueen

Jeremiah Su
(he/him)
@jeremy_su

Justin Tucker
(he/they)
@trailheadjustin

Shira Ungar
(they/them)
@junkspace3000
In 2021, American Hiking Society resumed in-person volunteer programming for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. With increased safety precautions in place, AHS successfully ran 19 Volunteer Vacations with eager volunteers joining from 34 different states. Volunteers celebrated the joy of getting back out on the trail, meeting new people after a year of isolation, and relishing the opportunity to give back to the natural spaces so many of us have used and relied on during the pandemic.

A total of 132 volunteers participated in these work trips, building and maintaining nearly 50 miles of trails at a volunteer labor value of $150,691. These trails are now sustainable and expand access for over 2.25 million annual, new and returning recreation users to safely enjoy. Participants came from all walks of life and backgrounds to experience a week of trail stewardship, recreation, and new friendships.

Words from the Project Hosts

“The AHS crew was outstanding. The crew had the knowledge and experience in building and maintaining great trails and it showed. They were extremely hard working and passionate about each task on the trail. I will definitely be looking to host another crew in the future!”

– Richard Tryder
Bureau of Land Management

“Not everyone was familiar with the tools at the start but all were willing and eager to learn. It was a good week of learning to know each other and working together.”

– Samuel Annabel
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Volunteer Reflections

“What I really love about Volunteer Vacations is that it gives you an experience of place and people like no other. During my recent Volunteer Vacation, I especially enjoyed observing local and visiting trail users, climbing Sheep Mountain for the spectacular view, and learning about native flora and fauna, history and folkways from local people.”

“This was my first trip, and I felt supported and a great way to learn and explore the area and acquire new skills. Super leaders, they really were superb.”
People across the country found physical, mental, and emotional restoration on trails during the pandemic. In honor of National Trails Day®, tens of thousands of participants came together to give back and care for America’s magnificent trail system and ensure more people in the U.S. can enjoy trails and natural areas.

Following COVID-19 local guidelines, folks across the country united around trails through modified in-person events, virtual events, and record social media engagement. Trail enthusiasts also participated by taking the National Trails Day® Pledge to take action in 2021 to care for trails and advocate for equitable, safe access to quality green spaces. In efforts to remove transportation barriers access to trails, Congress received hundreds of messages supporting the Transit to Trails Act* in celebration of National Trails Day®.
UNITED BY TRAILS

National Trails Day® volunteer and recreation events took place across the country on all types of hometown trails, including the National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails of the National Trails System (and trails supported by the Recreational Trails Program) on lands managed by BLM, USFS, NPS, state, and local agencies.

Everyone had a job from the very young (8 years old) to the very experienced (80 years old).
—Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

The visitors seemed to have a great time. We offered dip nets to look for invertebrate animals in the wetland that was nearby. It was good muddy fun!
—Linn County Conservation

Participants indicated many of them discovered trails they were not previously familiar. Local businesses were very pleased to be involved in the event. The local visitors bureau ended up with a map of local trails as a result of the event.
—Grand Traverse Hiking Club

We used the event to construct new trails in an area being developed as a new addition to the town’s trail system. At least one new trail by-passed a wetland area crossed by an older trail that will be closed.
—Hopkinton Trails Club

We had 13 people put in over 75 hours of work to complete the trail. This has been a 3 year project for the TCC and we are very proud of the work the community has done.
—Tahoe Climbing Coalition

With a group of Boy Scouts and teachers from the local school coming together to tackle this trail, it seemed everyone enjoyed the work and the end result was a much-improved trail.
—Los Padres Forest Association

We invited members of the local Outdoor Afro chapter to participate. We had a few folks from their group attend. It was a great day with lots of laughter, camaraderie, and face to face conversation.
—Florida Trail Association: Suncoast Chapter

We had a nice workday with a mixture of experienced volunteers and new volunteers. Work went smoothly, repairing erosion damage to the trail.
—Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

We had 13 people put in over 75 hours of work to complete the trail. This has been a 3 year project for the TCC and we are very proud of the work the community has done.
—Tahoe Climbing Coalition

With a group of Boy Scouts and teachers from the local school coming together to tackle this trail, it seemed everyone enjoyed the work and the end result was a much-improved trail.
—Los Padres Forest Association

We invited members of the local Outdoor Afro chapter to participate. We had a few folks from their group attend. It was a great day with lots of laughter, camaraderie, and face to face conversation.
—Florida Trail Association: Suncoast Chapter
2021 Board of Directors

Executive Committee
Sarah Baker Morgan, Chair
Saveria Tilden, Vice Chair
Fred Leffler, Treasurer
Jeff Senterman, Secretary
Bradley J. Ellis, Esq., Past Chair
Matt Griffis, At-Large
Michelle Jackson-Saulters, At-Large

Directors
Dodie Arnold
Maria Betancourt
Dennis Crowley
Marinel de Jesus
Heather Distad
Latasha Dunston
Sally Kidd
Becky Marcelliano
Bruce Matthews
Wendy McCormack
Jessica Newton
Elyse Rylander
Casey Schreiner

Ex-Officio, Non-Voting
Kate Van Waes, Executive Director
Executive Director’s Council Lifetime Membership

Executive Director’s Council Lifetime Membership recognizes and honors American Hiking Society’s most generous donors for their cumulative and consistent support. The Lifetime members of the Executive Director’s Council are the philanthropic leaders of American Hiking Society, and their impact is significant. Individuals have the opportunity to qualify for Lifetime Membership by establishing endowed scholarship funds to benefit Alternative Break student participants or can achieve their Lifetime status solely through their long-standing support of American Hiking Society. This society honors donors who have cumulatively given $25,000 or more in any of the following forms: planned gifts, outright gifts, new pledges, and matching gifts. The Executive Director’s Lifetime members plan a large role in bringing to life the mission of American Hiking Society and empowering all to share, preserve, and protect the hiking experience.

Lifetime membership in the Executive Director’s Council is based upon total cumulative gifts and commitments:

**Fellow**
$100,000 - $499,999
- Al Burt*
- Herbert Kirst*
- Robert and Dee Leggett
- Thomas Migdalski*
- Robert J. Weggel
- Ann Williams

**Steward**
$50,000 - $99,999
- Michael Honkomp
- Danuta Montorfano
- Charles Sloan*

**Advocate**
$25,000 - $49,999
- Walt and Jane Daniels
- Kathleen Etherington
- Tom R.* and Sharon Johnson
- Kimball T. Simpson* and Kate Donaghue
- Hugh Zimmerman

*Deceased

Learn more about our Executive Director’s Council Lifetime Membership at [americanhiking.org/ways-to-give](http://americanhiking.org/ways-to-give)
Executive Director’s Council

**Ambassador Level**
$5,000+
Robert J. Weggel
Kozubal Family
The Lasky-Barajas Family Fund
Floyd Dukes

**Partner’s Level**
$2,500 - $4,999
Ben and Libby Fehsenfeld
Sally Kidd
Becky Marcelliano
Aaron and Melissa Percy

**Founders Level**
$1,000 - $2,499
Dodie Arnold
Scott Beckett
Jacob Camp
Jane and Walt Daniels
Heather Distad
Stephan Doucette
Bradley J. Ellis

**Leadership Level**
$500 - $999
Jeffrey Baumgartner
Ed Benson
Maria Betancourt
Ann Marie Cullen
William Davidson
Latasha Dunston
David Ebert
Mary Susan and David Fishbaugh
FTI Consulting
Linda Groon
Timothy Havens
John Hervey
Jo Iaciofano
Timothy Krumreig
David Larrabee
Jerome Laux
C. Lovett
Beth McKinnon
Kerrin McPhail
Casey Schreiner
Saveria Tilden

**Trail Level**
$250 - $499
Frank Arter
Katharine Bate
David Bell
Judy Bennett
Kevin Binns
Joseph Cantey
Joan Carter
Mike Chapple
Monika Chatelain-Wright
Clapham
Michael Colavecchio
Brian Copley
Hope Covington
Bev Das
Jay Dement
Richard Dobson
Timothy Dube
Sabina Duborg
Jonathan D Dunfee
Joanna Fry
Thelma “TJ” Furlong
Grace Gibson
Karl Hayes
Michelle Heide
Tom Hoyt

**Executive Director’s Council**

**Special Thanks To Our Contributors**
The individuals listed on this page generously contributed $100 or more in 2021 and are therefore included as members of the American Hiking Society Executive Director’s Council. AHS gratefully acknowledges their commitment to empowering all to enjoy, share, and preserve the hiking experience.
Executive Director’s Council (cont.)

Hiker Level
$100 - $249
Andrea Aaron
Patrick Allen
Byron Almaquist
Courtney Anderson
Heather Bacon-Shone
Sonja Baertsch
Judy Baird
Jasmine Ball
Gary Barnes
John Bartlett
Dianne Bebele
Donald Bergey
Melissa Besecker
Brian Besser
Charles Black
Darren Blankenship
Kathleen Blinco
Steve Bomgardner
Rob Borowski
Douglas Brattebo
Charles Breaux
Ralph Bremigan
Meredith Bridgers
Robert Bridges
Steve Briggs
Craig Brooks
Rogene Buchholz
Rose M. Bulger
Mark Bush
Jim Calvert
Thomas Carter
Jeff and Debbie Chabot
Namit Chawla
Chevron
Peili Chu
Jocelyn Cogen
Rubin Cohen
Patricia Cronquist
Carolyn Crump
Timothy Curtin
CustomINK
John Daberkow
Paul Dawson
Teresa Dean
Thomas DeMund
Tom Dunlea
Katie Eckman
Cheryl EMoto
Luis Falcon III
Janet Ferroni
David Fleischhauer
Nancy Foster
Michael Frank
Elizabeth Gemmill
Peggy Gerety
James Glackner
Robert L. Goldsmith III
Doris Gove
Peter Gradoni
Barbara
and Richard Groen
Janet Hall
Marilyn Halpin
Peter Hanauer
Timothy Hanlon
Nicholas Hanson
Gretchen Harbin
Dennis Hardy
William Harper
Steve Harris
JoAnn Havel
Dennis Henricks
Joe Holland
Michael Horner
Holly Howard
Joe Howard
Nancy Hsieh
Ted Hullar
Louis Hurwitz,
Catherine Huseman
Christina Jacoby
Nancy Kail
Michael Kan
Allen Karasiewicz
Jim Kariya
Richard Kavanaugh
Ralph Keating
Ashley Kennedy
Patrick Kerr
Thomas Kloster
Tim Koenig
Paula Kreissler
Judy Kysh
Katherine LaForge
Thomas Larson
Don Lee
Jane Leedle
Dennis Lewon
David Lively
Reese Lukei
Lloyd MacAskill
Matthew MacNeill
Henry Magnuski
Trevor Maiers
Diane Zvi Manas
Kristen Mangold
Sally Mann
Robert Manning
James Manore
Matt Martinez
James Maxfield
Margaret McCarte
Phil McCune
Timothy McFarren
Melissa McKenzie
Richard Mendelson
Susan Michaels
James Miller
Carol
Anne Mitchell-James
Colleen Moore
Lucy Moore
Jill Myers,
George Neighbors
Codie and Cassie Nelson
John J. Newberry
Rebecca Noblin
Philip Nordhues
Kimberly Nunn
Richard Ott
Steve and Lise Pacala
Lucas Parsh
Andrew Pearlstein
Scott Pendleton
Daniel Perez
Edmund Peters
Denys Petrina
Aaron
and Sharon Phipps
Kaci Preston
Kenneth Prince
Anthony Quinn
Jay Reardon
Bob Richards
Sean Roberts
Steve Rodriguez
Richard Rortvedt
Hart Roussel
David Rudemiller
William Ruskin
Bradley Salamone
Ted Salmon
Larry Sampson
Rose Schaffer
Rick Schlauderaff
Martin Schmidt
Matthew Shearin
William Simon Jr.
David Singer
Mary Margaret Sloan
Anne Smith
Lisa, Stuart,
and Ella Sternberg
Dorie Stone
Sandra Stone
Cheryl Stults
Cheryl Suchors
Blair Sullivan
Mike Susoev
William Swafford
Tracey Syrilo
Peter Tanham
Richard Tarnutzer
Sheri Tarr
John Taylor
Ron Tenny
Philip Thor
Thomas Timmer
John Tomka
Joseph Triebsch
Carl Trimble
Chip Tucker
William Tworek
Peter and Cari Ulrich
Edward Vervoort
Judd Volino
Lauren Vronko
Gregory Warren
Larry Warren
Wendy Watson
Jeff Webster
Martha Welch
Katrina Westendorf
Gerald Wheeler
Patricia White
Julie C. Whittaker
Louise Wiedermann
Sue and Ted Wile
Joan Wiley
James Wilkinson
Gail Williams
Lynelle Wood
Jim Zumwalt
Corporate and Foundation Partners

Benefactor $25,000-$49,999
Athletic Brewing Co.
REI

Contributor $15,000-$24,999
L.L.Bean

Ally $10,000-$14,999
Adventure Ready Brands
Popular Mechanics

Supporter $5,000-$9,999
Backpacker’s Pantry
Osprey
Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation
Stanley

Friend Plus $2,500-$4,999
LOWA
Menasha Ridge Press
Salomon

Friend $1,500-$2,499
Falcon Guides
Hiking Bingo
Icard Merrill
LEKI
Your True Nature

In-Kind Donors
Adventure Ready Brands
Athletic Brewing Co.
Backpacker Magazine/
Outside Interactive, Inc.
Backpacker’s Pantry
Buckeye Trail Association
Klean Kanteen
LEKI
Lisa M. Curl
LOWA Boots, LLC
Merrell
Popular Mechanics

You can give at work.
Thank you to the many donors who contributed to American Hiking Society last year through corporate, state, city and county workplace giving campaigns. If you are a federal employee, you can support our work by designating #11784 on your pledge sheet during the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC.)
8403 Colesville Rd., Suite 1100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Info@AmericanHiking.org
AmericanHiking.org
1-800-972-8608

Thank you to our supporters

Founded in 1976, American Hiking Society is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering all to enjoy, share, and preserve the hiking experience. We thank each and every one of our donors for their dedication to our mission.