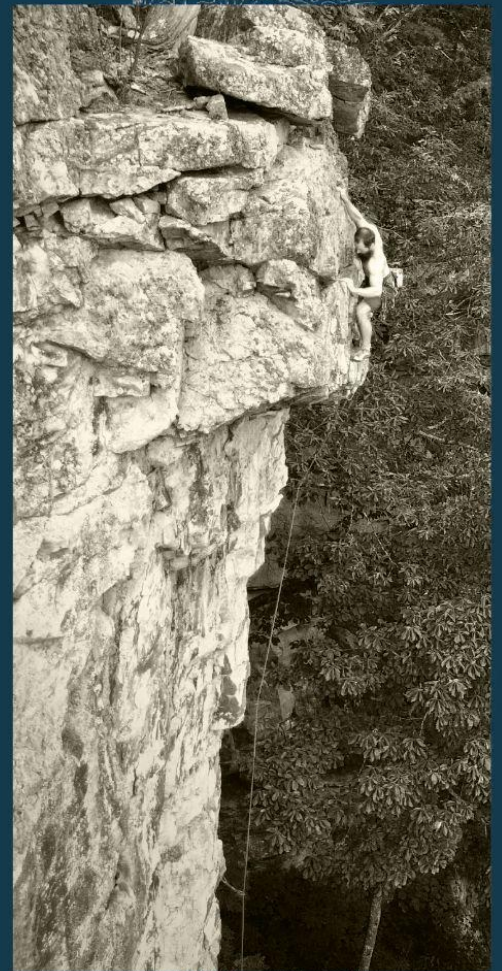
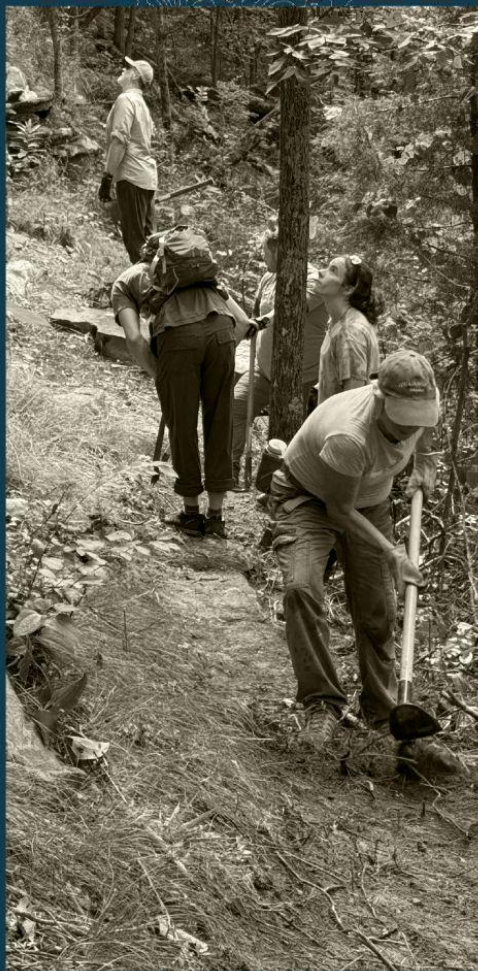
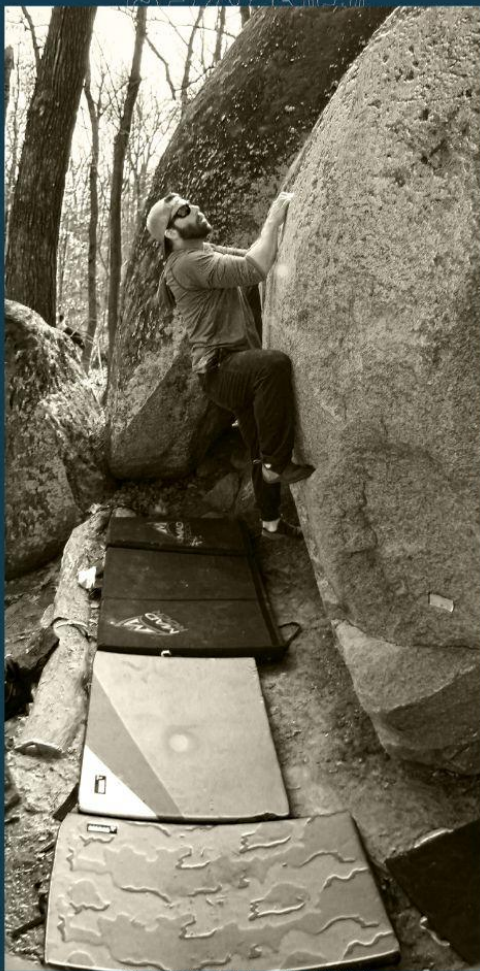




SOUTHEASTERN CLIMBERS COALITION



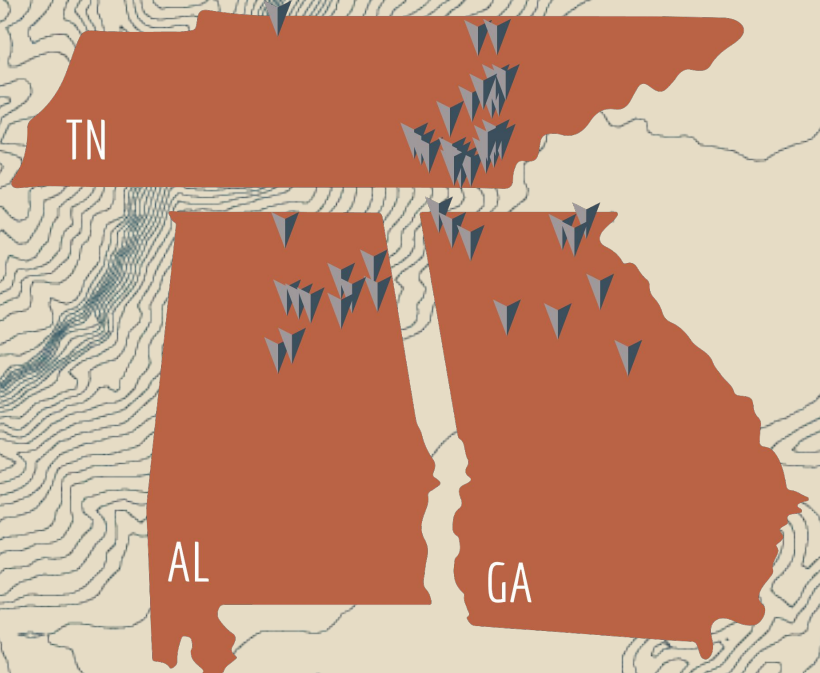
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Southeastern Climbers Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving climbing areas in the southeast for future generations.



Photo Credit: Nathalie DuPré Photography

SCC members and volunteers are climbers from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas and elsewhere who have joined forces to preserve access to climbing areas in the region.



Letter From Our Executive Director

What an incredible first year to help lead this amazing organization!

Twenty years ago I was introduced to climbing by some family friends at a small crag in north central Alabama. Fast forward through many days spent with amazing people at crags across the country, and I still get excited when I walk outside in the morning and there is a hint of fall air creeping in after a long hot summer season...

I learned of the SCC a few years after I started climbing. I spoke with Paul Morley, who was serving as the president at the time who told me that the SCC had recently acquired a cliffline in Alabama just minutes down the road from where I grew up. Maybe it was Paul's perma-psych, or maybe it was the fact that an entire group of people were dedicated to supporting a sport other than high school football in rural Alabama, but either way, I was sold.

I became a lifelong supporter of the SCC that year and never looked back.

Now in 2025 I have somehow earned the privilege of stepping into the role of Executive Director for the organization. I am very honored to have the opportunity to work for the entire climbing community and I would say that 2025 certainly started out on the right foot. Six months into my first year with the SCC and I have had the privilege of playing a small role in opening two new climbing areas in east Tennessee, Little Brushy and Pond Creek.

If I'm lucky, I'll have the chance to continue to open new areas that will give individuals more places to explore and more opportunities for people to get outside and see something new. Perhaps it will even give more kids from the rural parts of a southeastern state an opportunity to be introduced to climbing and the positive change that can come along with it.

I'm very thankful to be working with two exceptional staff members, a board of directors that will always go above and beyond, a long list of SCC alumni who never mind a long phone call, and a huge community that will drop what they are doing and show up to help with the heavy lifting.

I can't wait to catch up with y'all over the coming year and work hard to best serve this wonderful region!



SCC STAFF

This year, the SCC completed a full transition of leadership. While this certainly marked the end of an era as we say goodbye to our outgoing staff, Kate Hanes and Caleb Timmerman, so far the passing of the torch went as smooth as possible! We would like to give them both a HUGE shoutout for the work they have done and wish them all the best in all of their future endeavors!



Ben Lowe,
Executive Director

Years Climbing: 20
Professional Strengths:
Marketing / Land Acquisition
Favorite Climbing Area:
Horse Pens 40



Kara Matassino, Stewardship Director

Years Climbing: 11
Professional Strengths:
Education / Trail Building
Favorite Climbing Area:
T-Wall



Maddi Fultz,
Marketing & Events Director

Years Climbing: 6
Professional Strengths:
Marketing / Events
Favorite Climbing Area:
Pep Boys (aka Cumberland Boulders)

SCC LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

Laura Wyatt, TN - Board President
Erick Barros, GA - President Elect
Kaitlyn Pelletier, TN - Treasurer
Logan Kennedy, AL - Secretary
Bob Farley, AL
Kelly Mitchell, TN
Amy Patterson, GA
Cody Roney, TN

Staff:

Ben Lowe, Executive Director
Maddi Fultz, Marketing Director
Kara Matassino, Stewardship Director

Committees

ACQUISITIONS & ACCESS

Cody Roney, Chair
Michael O'Donnell
Laura Wyatt
Bob Farley
Hansen Babbington
Jimmy Stout
Chase Johnson
Roberta Moore

FINANCE

Kaitlyn Peletier, Treasurer
Kelly Mitchell, Chair
Jamie Gross
Janet Leung
Michael O'Donnell

EDUCATION

Natalie Hawley, Chair
Paul Zachos
Max Gunther
Natalie Hawley
Nick Shook

FIXED HARDWARE

Matt Gant, Chair
Andrew Breinig
Parker Weide
Eric Howard
Danny Aleksovski
Chris Merchant
Brian Wulf
Brian Murphey

Area Reps

GEORGIA

Jeff Gillespie
Erick Barros
Jacob Smulian
Jon Powell
Emily Martin
Dave Adkins

ALABAMA

Bernard Wolfe
Sam Whatley
Harley Mathews
Russ Timothy
Carrie Machen
Bob Farley
Logan Kennedy
Micah Hight
Nolan Fulton

TENNESSEE

Heath Rowland
Gavin Woodard
Rebecca Park
Jeremiah Nason
Natalie Hawley
Mathias Simmons
Max Gunther
Chris Merchant
Kirk Brode
Kyle Jones
Ryan Johnson
Maddi Fultz

Community Ambassadors

GEORGIA

Jeff Gillespie
Erick Barros
Hannah Kemelmakher
Sam Taylor
Justin Nesmith
Jilli Cluff

ALABAMA

Harley Mathews
Markham Tuck
Parker Weide
Logan Kennedy
Alex Freeman
Teryn Schwind
Bailey Rowland
Abby Large

TENNESSEE

Laura Wyatt
Jonathan Wyatt
Soshonna Wulf
Brian Wulf
Briana Givens
Kate Dearborn
Mario Morante
Paul Zachos



Partnerships and Contributors

Grants Awarded

This year was an exceptional year for SCC grant awards and we are so grateful to all of the funders who support our mission.

OnX - Support for Citadel

REI Foundation - General Organization Support

Access Fund - New Privy / Fixed Hardware

Little Drummer Girl - Stewardship Support

Trust For Public Land - Subrecipient for ARC Grant

Prosthetics & Orthotic Associates - Little Brushy support



\$63,945
Grants Awarded

Thank you to these donors who go above and beyond and support the work directly through their financial commitments and contributions.

Coalition Hero Donors

(\$10,000+)

Kenton Brown / Jay Dryden / Kenneth Hyman

Benchmark Donors

(\$2,500+)

Beck Kloss / Mitch Naylor / Johnny O'Brien

Friends Of The Coalition

(\$1,200+)

Schulz Family / Douglas Porter / Julie Reed / George & Kristi Sisak / Mathias Simmons / William Parilla

If you would like to help support the SCC please email us at Ben@seclimbers.org or visit us online at seclimbers.org



Access & Advocacy



SCC's Latest Acquisition - Citadel Boulders - Fort Payne, AL

SCC and Access Fund announced the purchase of the Citadel Boulders on December 1, 2023. The acquisition included 58 acres of undeveloped land surrounding an incredible boulder field. This acquisition was more than two decades in the making and another landmark victory for climbing and conservation in the Southeast. Fast forward to just over a year later and we are still pumped about this huge win! While it's no surprise that this area is seeing more climbing traffic, we have also been pleased to see many Fort Payne residents enjoying the property as well. All SCC owned properties are meant to be open and available to a wide variety of user groups and it's always great to hear stories of how they now have a new place to get outside and spend time in nature. Bonus points when they mention how friendly the climbers are!

We are on track to be able to pay off the Citadel Boulders by the end of 2026. Closing this loan will permanently secure this property for generations to come, so if you're not yet an SCC member or donor, please consider going to seclimbers.org to learn how you can lend your support!

Thank you to our partners for their support



Protect America's Climbing



Access & Advocacy

Access Wins in the Region

Little Brushy

After an extensive multi-year effort between the Access Fund, Lyme Timber Company, and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition, a long term lease was signed giving the SCC access to 409 acres of property dubbed “Little Brushy”.

The Little Brushy Climbing Area is located in Sequatchie Valley just outside of Dunlap, TN about 40 minutes from Chattanooga, at a middle point between Nashville, Chattanooga, and Huntsville.

This area is full of steep routes offering mostly sport climbs ranging from 5.11-5.14. The north-facing cliffline offers shady afternoons, perfect for warmer days. In addition to the cliff line, the property hosts numerous established boulders along the Little Brushy Creek.



Protect America's Climbing



THE
LYME TIMBER
COMPANY

Images courtesy of Nathalie DuPré Photography



Community Support

Immediately following the announcement of the signed lease agreement for Little Brushy, the climbing community gathered, braving the summer heat and humidity, fields of stinging nettle, copious amounts of poison ivy, mosquitos and ticks to help prepare the area for the upcoming climbing season.

SCC volunteers helped cut new trails, stabilize slopes, and installed new handlines.

Special thanks for **Prosthetic and Orthotic Associates of Tennessee** for providing the signage and materials for the new trailhead kiosk at Little Brushy!



Access & Advocacy

Access Wins in the Region

The Canyon At Pond Creek

Every once in a while the Southeastern Climbers Coalition runs into some truly amazing luck. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have met Matt McBride, the owner and operator of a glamping resort, The Canyon at Pond Creek, which sits upon a beautiful bluffline in the Sequatchie Valley.

While McBride could have easily limited access to his property to resort guests, he instead opted to welcome the entire climbing community with open arms! Now the SCC has a signed memorandum of understanding with this very generous private landowner which outlines how this great new climbing area will be accessed and maintained over the coming years.



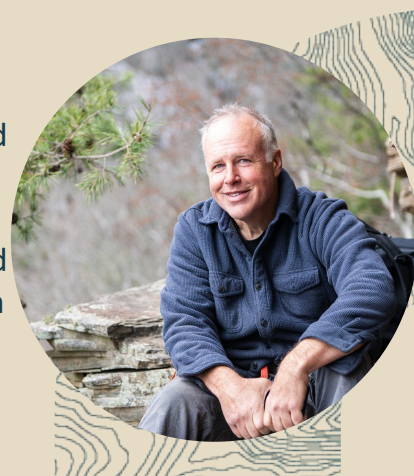
Images courtesy of McBride Outdoor Hospitality



Before officially opening the gates to the masses, the SCC worked alongside McBride in a true partnership to organize sneak peek trail days where volunteers earned their climbing day with a little sweat equity.

We would like to say a special thanks to Matt (pictured right) for leading the way in showing how private landowners and businesses can share their land with the community.

If you're considering a trip to the area we highly recommend that you check out The Canyon at Pond Creek and everything they have to offer!



Stewardship

Trail Daze of Summer - Inspiring Stewardship

For our 7th anniversary of Trail Daze of Summer, we hosted **15 Trail Days**, with **533 volunteers**. Volunteers put in a total of **2,132 stewardship hours** between June and August. We owe so much of that engagement and growth to On the Road and Off for seeing the need and coming up with a targeted program to fill that need.

To harness our amazing volunteer power, we need more skilled volunteer leaders to make our projects effective and high quality. On the Road and Off rose to the challenge again and helped us host another highly successful Trail Skills Workshop at Woodcock Cove.

This year's Trail Daze of summer was also very special as we utilized a handful of work days to prepare two brand new climbing areas, **Little Brushy** and **Pond Creek**, for public access! Our community members rose to the challenge, showing up in droves, and made quick work of the critical projects needed to open the gates.



15
Trail Days

1,568
Stewardship Hours

387
Volunteers



Stewardship

Taking Care of What's Ours

While the Southeastern Climbers Coalition may be well known for purchasing climbing areas to protect access, acquisitions are only a part of the story. After a piece of property is purchased, then begins the true work. Opening a piece of property to the public inherently brings pressure to the land and it is our job to help minimize those effects. This comes in the form of designated parking areas, resilient trail systems, and other critical infrastructure projects. While we help maintain many climbing areas in the region, these projects are especially important on properties where we are the primary caretakers! While it is only a portion of the total work done in a year, we would like to say a special thanks to the **92 volunteers** that showed up this year to help us take care of our beloved SCC properties!

368

Stewardship Hours

92

Volunteers

A bit of relief for the Hospital Boulders

As our climbing areas continue to see more and more use, the need to manage waste becomes even more critical. Oftentimes this can be a challenge as most of our properties do not have access to running water or sewer infrastructure. This year, with the help of a grant from the **Access Fund** and a handful of skilled volunteers, we were able to make visits to the SCC's Hospital Boulders a bit more pleasant with the addition of a brand new moulderling privy!



Moving forward, we as an organization are planning to work harder to let all of our members, donors, and volunteers know that their support goes beyond the occasional acquisition. We are a group dedicated to maintaining the climbing areas that we hold so dear. This is a year-round effort and one that we are honored to take on for the benefit of the greater community. We want this to be apparent whenever you visit an SCC owned/maintained piece of property. If you have any suggestions, or see anything that might need a little TLC, please don't hesitate to email us at: info@seclimbers.org

Community



With a complete turnover in staff, much of this year was spent making sure that we didn't lose any momentum built by the outgoing leaders. Fortunately for us, there was plenty of stoke already in the tank and much MUCH more to come! The outflowing of support from climbers, both old and new, was nothing short of incredible. Volunteers, donations, and positive words of encouragement came rolling in from all directions! After it was all said and done, we were able to raise over **\$78,000** from event tickets/registrations and individual donations!



251
Volunteers



9
Community Events



\$78,153
Funds Raised

Community

Outdoor Bouldering Comps

SCC continues to thrive and grow thanks to our volunteers, vendor partners, members, and every climber who steps up to help be a good steward of our crags. This year through the tradition of our outdoor bouldering competitions, we were able to raise more than \$41,000 for climbing conservation and stewardship.

Series Sponsor:



Float The Boat

As one of the oldest outdoor bouldering competitions in the southeast, this year's competition didn't disappoint. Competitors enjoyed perfect temperatures and even some silly new categories that remind us of the real magic of granite slab climbing in the heart of Atlanta. We are so grateful for the volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible once again.

Title Sponsors



The Sickness

Competitors turned out in droves with a full dose of stoke this year as prime temps welcomed them back to the Hospital Boulders in Gadsden Alabama. Score cards were filled, crash pads were thrown, and we even had our very own 17th century plague doctor motivating (terrifying?) climbers up the boulders.

Title Sponsors



\$22,409

Funds Raised

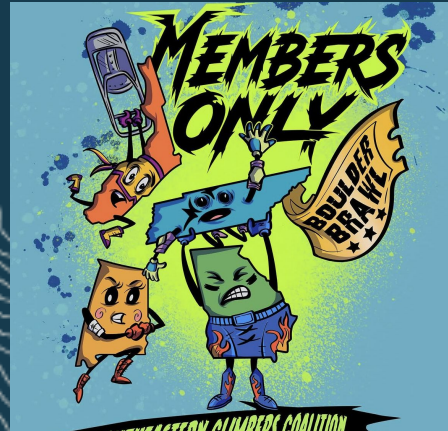
\$18,769

Funds Raised

Community

Members Only Boulder Brawl

Once again members dawned their favorite tank tops, grabbed their battery powered fans, and summoned as many cool thoughts as they could as we gathered for another year of the exclusive - SCC Members Only Boulder Brawl, better known as MOBB!



M E M B E R S
O N L Y
B O U L D E R
B R A W L

TWO LOCATIONS FOR 2025!

After many complaints from non-Alabama native climbers saying things like “we’re just not strong enough to climb at Horse Pens 40” we decided to help level the playing field by having not one, but TWO days of sweaty, swampy fun by adding a stop at Stone Fort this year. We had more than 100 competitors come out to each event to endure the brutal temperatures.

While Alabama still pulled out a win this year, Tennessee wasn’t far behind and may have pulled ahead if not for a rain delay at Stone Fort. Members from GA, FL, and even KY also put up a valiant effort and vowed to return stronger for the coming year! This event is designed to keep psyche high in the summer and encourage folks to become members!



Community

BYOB - Buy Your Own Boulderfield

Each year SCC hosts our annual BYOB fundraiser to help purchase and protect climbing areas in the southeast for future generations. This year we returned the event to Burlaep Print and Press, hosted a vendor village, played lots of climbing games, and enjoyed performances from the Chattanooga Circus Collective celebrating all that SCC has accomplished over the years. over

\$13,025
Funds Raised

Title Sponsor



Thanks to this year's unhinged circus party, and all the dedicated community members who came out to support, we were able to raise over \$13,000!

Of course we couldn't go without offering a massive shout out to all of the amazing sponsors that helped us raise the big top and all that money to go toward protecting climbing in the southeast!

Organic Climbing, Arc'teryx Apparel, Four Bridges Outfitters, Teren Designs, La Sportiva, Metolius Climbing, Butora, Gearhead Outfitters, High Point Climbing, Soshin Orlando, Bri Perez Tattoos



Community

More Great Excuses To Get Together

In between some of our larger shindigs and trail day gatherings, we have a handful of dedicated partner brands and businesses that generously offer to share their space and support. These partners and opportunities are invaluable as they allow us to share critical stewardship information, raise funds, and share what the organization is up to year-round!

GYM TO CRAG

MARCH 15 | 2PM | NASHVILLE WEST

GEAR
BETA
ETIQUETTE
MENTORSHIP

Join the Southeastern Climbers Coalition and Climb Nashville for a presentation and Q&A designed to set you up for success as you finesse your climbing skills both indoor and outdoor.

SCC CLIMB

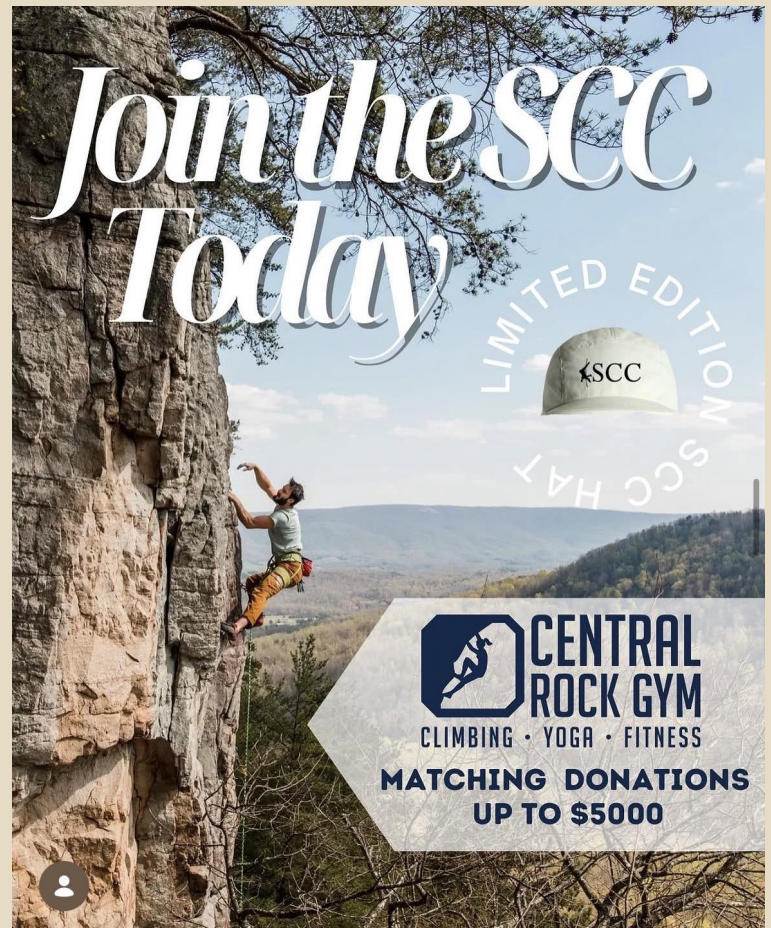


We would like to offer a special shout out to some of the brands that rolled out the red carpet for us this year!
Climb Nashville / Arc'Teryx / Lookout Wild Film Festival / Barrel House Ballroom / Gearhead Outfitters

While we're always down to get together and talk about what the SCC has going on, we also have partners that really step up and help take our membership drives to the next level! This year **Central Rock Gym** really walked the walk by offering to match up to \$5,000 of donations during our end of year membership drive. Once again our amazing community took action and absolutely blew our goal out of the water!

272
Member Donations

\$17,794
Raised



Community



SOUTHEASTERN CLIMBERS COALITION

All Proceeds go directly to the
Southeastern Climbers Coalition!

Enter to win today!!!

T-Rex

KILTER

ORGANIC
CLIMBING, USA

Red Bull
ENERGY DRINK



Board Tour Sweepstakes

This year with some mega support from **T-Rex Climbing**, **Kilter**, **Organic Climbing**, and **Red Bull**, the SCC ran our very first fundraiser sweepstakes! With some helping hands, the SCC staff paraded this amazing giveaway package around to six different locations

101
Donors

1,097
Entries Sold

\$5,832
Funds Raised

Partnerships and Contributors



Conservation Legacy

*The Conservation Legacy Program is built on the foundation that the Southeastern Climbers Coalition saves special places, places specifically for rock climbers. Conservation Legacy donors will know their donation goes toward preserving those special places into perpetuity. Thank you to each of our donors who are protecting climbing areas for future generations. Thanks to our partnership with local legends at Ground Up Sales, donors receive gifts from **Rab**, **Scarpa**, and **Petzl**.*



CLIMBING PROTECTOR

\$1,500 +

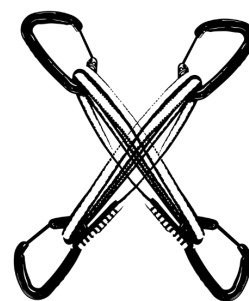
Jay Dryden
Beck Kloss
Schulz Family
Zachary Eddy
George & Kristi Sisak
Doug Porter
Julie Reed



CRAG SAVER

\$1,000

Mitch Naylor
Chris Lewis
Laura Wyatt
Bob Farley
Scott Godchaux



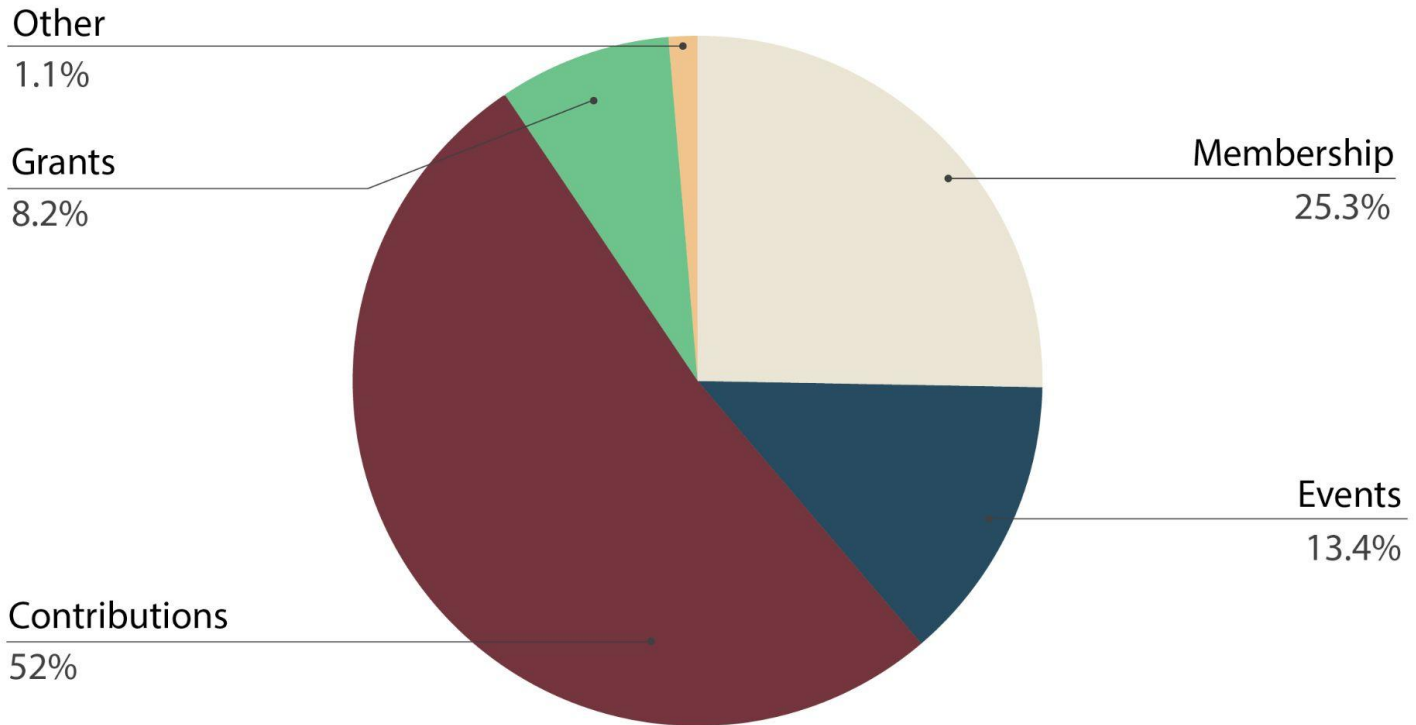
ROUTE WARRIOR

\$500

Mario Morante
Cody Roney
Logan Kennedy
Eric Howard
Richard Ruddell
Bryan Bassett

Financial Report

Income



\$293,001.59
Income

Note from our Treasurer

The SCC continues to be in a strong and healthy position, reflecting the dedication of our members, volunteers, donors, and partners.

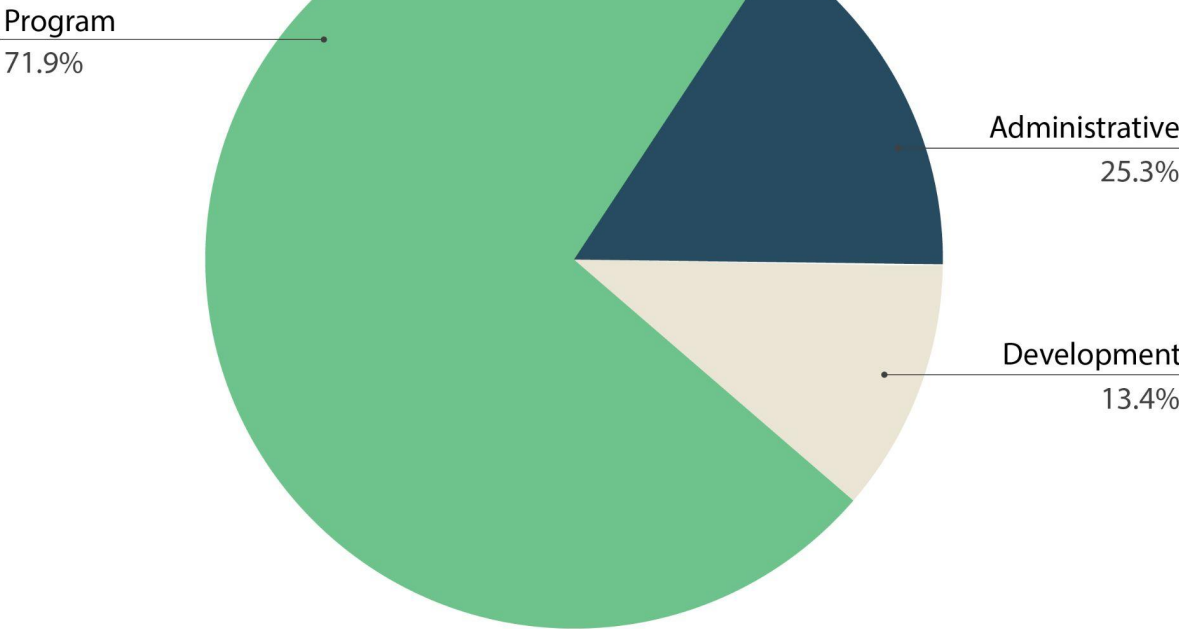
Over the past year, we have strengthened our financial foundation, expanded support for our mission, and continued investing in stewardship, advocacy, access, and community programs that benefit climbers across the region. Our organization remains well-positioned to pursue new opportunities while maintaining responsible management of our resources and properties. Most importantly, the SCC continues to grow its impact through you, our members and our shared commitment to protecting and improving climbing access for future generations.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities before us and confident that the SCC's future is bright as we continue building on this momentum together.

- Kaitlyn Pelletier, SCC Treasurer

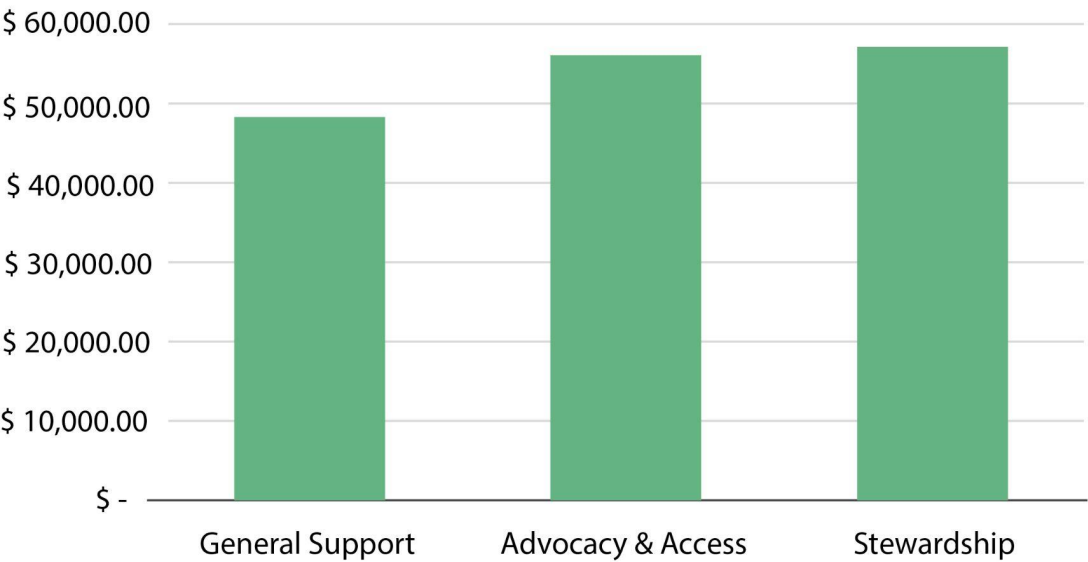
Financial Report

Amount



\$224,315.08
Expenses

Program Expenses

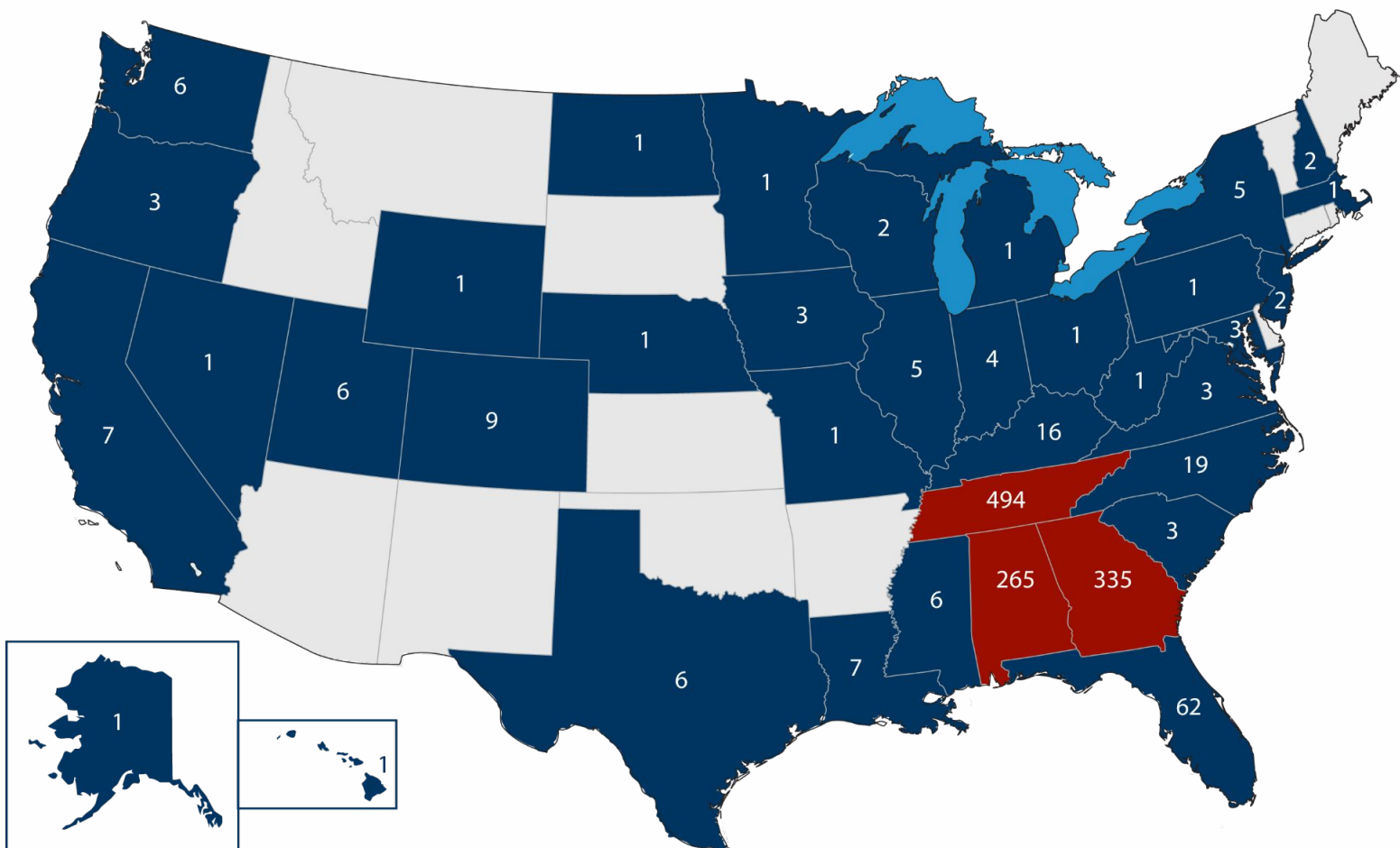


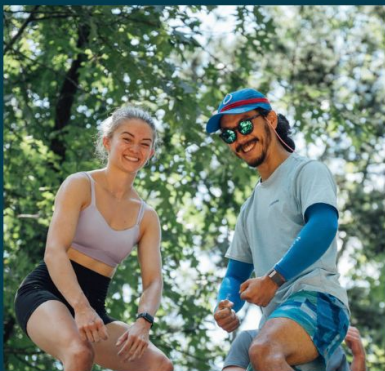
Membership Report



There is no doubt that southeastern climbers are dedicated to the stewardship of and access to our climbing areas in our region. There is a special group of climbers who have turned that passion into action by becoming SCC members.

SCC Members Across The Country





Thank you for another great year!

Stay connected, and get involved:

www.seclimbers.org

VOLUNTEER | BECOME A MEMBER | DONATE