



ANNUAL HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER



Photo credit: Ken "Squeaky" Herz

Dear Friends,

Take a breath. Picture the Adirondacks in early summer, the morning fog lifting off the lake, the pine needles crackling under small but determined feet, the quiet hum of possibility in the air. Now picture a child standing at the edge of that same lake, toes curled on the dock, about to dive into a world bigger and brighter than anything they've known. By the time August ends, that child will not be the same.

That is the gift you gave last summer. And that is the magic we need your help to give again.

Because of your extraordinary generosity, 46 children experienced Camp Pok-o-MacCready in all its life-changing glory. Forty-six kids who traded in stress for wide-open skies. Forty-six kids who swapped the constant noise of the world for the kind of silence that lets you hear your own courage. Forty-six kids who discovered a new version of themselves that was braver, stronger, and more joyful than when they arrived.

These weren't just camp memories. They were turning points. Moments when a child realized, "I can do hard things." Moments when a kid who felt unseen found their place—and their people. Moments that will echo through their lives long after the last campfire ember fades.

For many of our campers, Pok-o is more than a summer escape; it is a lifeline. It is stability when home feels unsteady. It is confidence when self-doubt has been winning. It is belonging when the world feels too big. It is a chance to climb mountains, literal and emotional, and come down changed.

And here's the truth we cannot ignore. None of this happens without you.

Most of our applicants rely on partial scholarships made possible by donors like you. Every single dollar creates a ripple that becomes a wave of confidence, strength, and joy in a child's life.

This holiday season, we are asking you to help us do it again... and to reach even more children. Because the need is greater than ever, and the impact is deeper than words can express.

You are not just giving money. You are giving a summer that becomes a turning point.

Let's create another season of transformation. Let's send even more kids into the woods and up the mountains. Let's give them stories of resilience, laughter, connection, and triumph that they will carry into adulthood.

Together, we can ensure that next summer, another child stands at the base of a mountain, heart racing, breath catching, ready to discover what they're capable of.

Thank you for believing in this mission so deeply. Thank you for showing up for these kids. And thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for being the reason lives are changed.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with peace, love, and the profound joy of knowing you are creating brighter futures.

With heartfelt gratitude,

The Adirondack Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors:

Suzanne Baker
Caleb Balderston
Dana Beck
Andee Bucciarelli
Chris Durlacher (*Treasurer*)
Gwen (Marshak) Finger
Elisa Fischer (*President*)
Jacob Gittler

Andrew Gonzalez
Michele (Goldman) Lipsky
Brianna (Livsey) McDonough (*Secretary*)
Colin Mitchell
Candace (Clark) Trinchieri
Tricia Woodward
Erik Zimmerman (*Executive Director*)

Jack Swan Initiates Drive to Honor Pok-O Legends

The Adirondack Scholarship Foundation is proud to announce a new drive made possible by an initiating donation from Jack Swan. This drive seeks to establish two new scholarships dedicated to preserving the memory of two men who shaped the heart of Pok-O: James Hankins and Rob Childress.

James Hankins, the camp's chef for 47 years, is a name every camper knows from the Camp Song, thanks to his legendary ice cream. Yet, his impact extended far beyond the kitchen. James blew the bugle, sang, and served as a leader, friend, and inspiration to generations of campers and staff.

"Uncle Rob" Childress arrived at Pok-O in 1931, dedicating 36 summers to camp. Whether he was chopping wood, working the ice-cream maker alongside James, or simply engaging with campers, Uncle Rob changed lives. Jack Swan remembers the powerful, overwhelming ovations Uncle Rob would receive in the dining hall.

We invite you to join Jack in honoring these two incredible legacies. If you wish to contribute to the James Hankins and Uncle Rob Childress Scholarship funds, please note their names in the "In Memory" section of your donation.

How to Donate:

Venmo: @adkscholarship

Checks: made out to "Adirondack Scholarship Foundation," and mailed to P.O. Box 4, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Credit Card: on our website adkscholarship.org/donate

Contact us at:

adkscholarship@gmail.com



2025 IN REVIEW: CAMPERS, DONORS, AND OUR IMPACT

2025 At A Glance

 **\$137,838**
awarded in scholarships

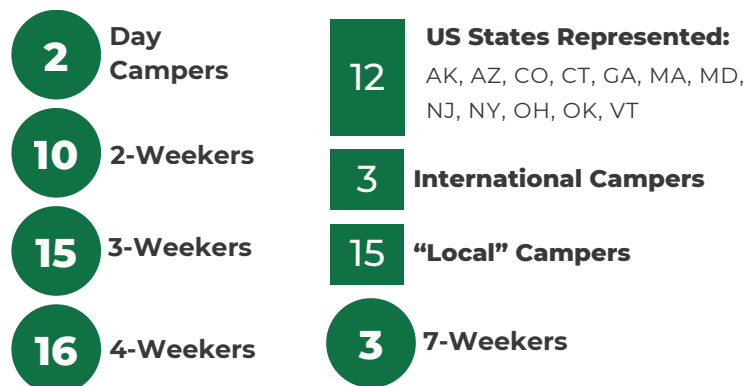
 **46**
children sent to camp

Scholarship range:
\$250 → **\$7,700**

 **5** full scholarships
41 partial scholarships

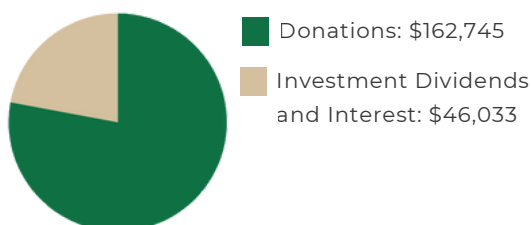
 **\$56,072** average scholarship family income
\$56,532 median scholarship family income

SCHOLARSHIP CAMPER INFORMATION

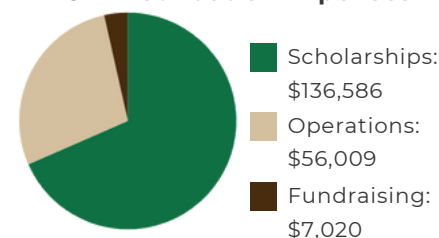


FINANCIAL LOOK-BACK

FY 2024 Foundation Revenue



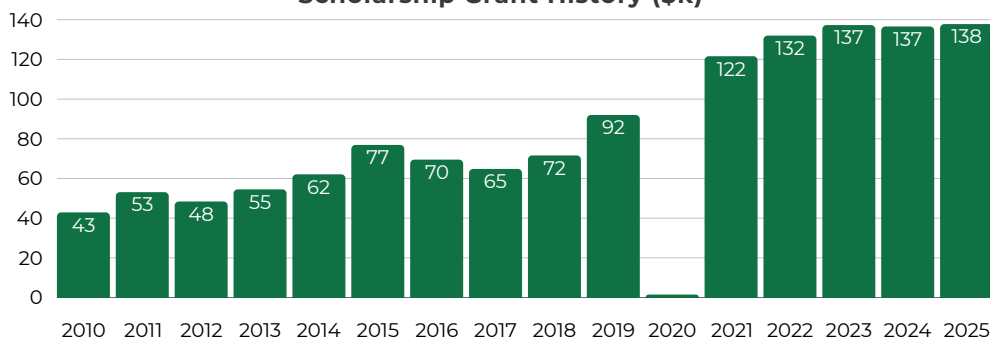
FY 2024 Foundation Expenses



NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Bob Andrews Memorial Scholarship
Neal Andrews Memorial Scholarship
Doug Fischer Memorial Scholarship
Peter Levine Endowed Scholarship
Terry and Anne McGrath Memorial Scholarship
Matt Potel Memorial Scholarship
Remi Weiman Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Grant History (\$k)



*Note: Values are rounded to nearest 1,000.

DONOR INFORMATION

So far in 2025, ADKSF has raised \$154,911 from 388 donors:

39 Honor Camper donors (\$1,000+)
29 Leadership donors (\$500-\$999)
67 Loyalty donors (\$200-\$499)
253 Enthusiasm and General donors (\$1-\$199)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Adirondack Scholarship Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children. We provide camper families with financial assistance to attend Pok-O-MacCready Camps, and facilitate access to other Adirondack children's camps and institutions. We provide this assistance to the families of children from all races, genders, orientations, abilities, and other identities. In a world increasingly dominated by virtual interactions and disregard for the environments in which we live, we believe there is formative power in this unique Adirondack summer camp experience that promotes stewardship, builds character, and forms friendships that last a lifetime.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED WITH ADKSF?

Join our Trailblazing Advocates program and support the ADKSF in your own unique way—no effort is too big or small. Stay connected with the camp family, advocate for our mission, build your resume, and help give the gift of camp. Email trailblazers@adkscholarship.org to learn more.

2025 Contributors*

In Memory Of

The following people were memorialized by one or more donors:

Anne Andrews, Bob Andrews, Jack Andrews, Jim "Beetle" Bailey, Michael Daley, Doug Fischer, The Commander Frischmann, Tom Frischmann, Mariellen Harland, John Konowitz, David MacCready, Greg Pizzurro, Matt Potel, Charles Robinson, Joyce Sherman, Jean Sidaris, Joe Stern, Colonel Swan, Mrs. H.T. Swan, Nancy Swan, Sarah Swan, Russ Van Korb, Remi Weiman, Nevin Whiteley, Rick Wright, Walt Zimmerman, Michael Zorawick

In Honor Of

The following were recognized by one or more donors:

Caleb Balderston & Rachel Levy, Annabel Calhoun, Chris Durlacher & Nora Elton, Elisa Fischer, Ken "Squeaky" Herz, Mark, Audrey, and Noah Jordan, Peter Levine, Michele Goldman Lipsky, The Livsey and McDonough Families, Oliver Moody, Jacob Phaneuf, Tim Singer & Augusta Wilson, Jack Swan

Honor Camper (\$1,000+)

Noreen Adler
Nancy Andrews
Spencer Aronstein
Caleb Balderston
Tom & Betsy Balderston
Nomi & Neal Bergman
John Caradonna
Scott & Susan Davidson
Brian & Kathleen Dunn
Patrick Dunn
Chris Durlacher & Nora Elton
Stephen Egal
Gwen & Daniel Finger
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Brian Getz
Andrew Gonzalez
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Peter Stein
Chris Stokes
David Togut
Ali Veitch
Katrin Wachs
Peter Welles
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Patricia Woodward

Leadership Level (\$500-\$999)

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Suzanne Baker
Dana Beck
Nancy & Larry Bucciarelli
Dan Colleton
Henry & Marjorie Collins
Erin Dorr
Pamela Evason
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Janet Festa
Celeste Anne Goethe
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Patricia Hildreth
Laura Hunt
Daniel Jeffrey
Romi Jordan
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Mary Ellen O'Connor
Erin Patton
Melissa Perilstein
Joe Shapiro
Tim Singer & Augusta Wilson
Candace Clark Trinchieri
Elizabeth Van Sickle
Michael Welles
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Erik & Kelly Zimmerman

Loyalty Level (\$200-\$499)

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Mark Sullivan
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Suzanne Swan
Angela Swan
Meghan & Michael Taptick
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Sydney Thayer
Martha Warren
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Abbe Wright
Jo Ann Wyatt
David Wyman
Joseph & Lois Zorawick

Enthusiasm Level (\$46-\$199)

David Balderston
Stuart B. & Lee A. Bauer
Jamie Behrens
Chris Bell
Kristina Berger
Spencer Blasdale
Michael Bodnar
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Kevin Bouchard-Hall
Frederik Brasz
Simon Bresler
Jonathan Bress
Ryan Brienza
Linda Brienza
Michael Brockway
Alli Brunner
Jonathan Bush
Chris Caffarone
Pamela Cataldi-Gittler
Miles Chalnack
Clarissa Chambers
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Karen and Simon Clough
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Daniel Dick
Sarah Disney
Alexandra Disney
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Graham Dorr
Michael Downing
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Emily Eastwick
Jody Edwards
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Ben Eskilstark
Linda Fasold
Daniel Flanagan
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Tim & Eileen Gabriel
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Sebastian Moody
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Wally Young
Timothy Ziegler
Joe Zimmerman
Kat Zimmerman
Sharon Zimmerman
Sonya Ziolkowski

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