

Please see our most recent Around South Mountain Newsletter updates below!



## The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

### Registration Open! Jan 31 Winter Partnership Meeting

Join us on **Friday, Jan. 31 from 9am-12pm** at Keystone Kidspace in York for our Annual Winter Partnership Meeting!

#### [REGISTER HERE](#)

All partners and interested parties are invited to come together and build relationships and collaborations. Start your New Year with inspiration and connection! Host York County will be showcasing incredible projects in York City aimed at providing residents with access to cultural and recreational resources. We will also explore the unique funding models that make these projects possible and hear from local grant program managers. Our meeting will also include updates from the Partnership on State of the Region and time for your organizational updates. Informal networking, coffee, and breakfast snacks begin at 8:30 a.m. Free onsite parking is available.

An event flyer for the Winter Partnership Meeting. It features the South Mountain Partnership logo at the top left. The text reads: "SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP CONSERVATION NETWORK", "WINTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING", "FRIDAY | 9AM JANUARY 31, 2025", and "KEYSTONE KIDS SPACE YORK, PA". There is a circular photo of people at a meeting. At the bottom, it says "Explore YORK yorkpa.org" and "YORK COUNTY TRAIL TOWNS". A box contains the text: "Tickets \$8 | Register by Jan 24th Don't miss incredible speakers and a walking tour of York's Heritage Rail Trail!".

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Don't miss incredible speakers and a walking tour of  
York's Heritage Rail Trail!

## South Mountain Partnership Gift Guide



We're bringing back our gift guide for all your holiday shopping needs!

We're excited to share a holiday season gift guide that highlights local businesses and artisans dedicated to preserving South Mountain's natural beauty. We always advocate for shopping small and local, supporting our economy and small business community. Remember, this list is just a starting point—we hope it encourages you to venture out and discover all that South Mountain has to offer this season!

Find the **Gift Guide** and additional information on our [blog](#).

## #SouthMountainLandscape Photo Contest



We chose our top five submissions for our #southmountainlandscape photo content, now it's your turn!

**Vote [HERE](#)** for the best photo of South Mountain before Dec. 18! Want to take a closer look at the photos? Find them on our [Facebook page](#).



## Regional Funding Updates



### **SMP Research Grants Open**

Funding applications to the 2025 South Mountain Research Corps Grants are now open! NEW this year we have three rolling deadlines. We hope this will make the program work well with a variety of timing for you and your students. The South Mountain Research Corps (SMRC) seeks to support academic and student-focused research in environmental sciences, forestry, agriculture, cultural and historic resources, geology, geography, and land use planning within the South Mountain region of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York counties in south central Pennsylvania.

The application link and the Grant Packet with Research Priorities is available [HERE](#).

### **PA Announces \$1.7 Million Investment in South Mountain Landscape!**

On November 12, Governor Josh Shapiro and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DNCR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced \$79.4 million in grants for 307 projects across Pennsylvania, aimed at expanding recreational opportunities, conserving natural spaces, and revitalizing communities. These grants will support a wide range of projects, including improving local parks, expanding trails and river access points, and creating more green space in local communities. We are excited \$1.7 million of that investment occurs within the South Mountain Region.

Read more [HERE](#).

### **South Mountain Partnership Awards Nearly \$60,000 in Grants to 11 Organizations**

On Friday, September 27, South Mountain Partnership (SMP) gave 11 organizations approximately \$60,000 through their Mini-Grant and Flex Grant Programs for projects advancing the priorities of SMP's State of the Region Project.

Read more [HERE](#).

## Wittlinger Fall Planting 2024 Flex Grant Spotlight



The Wittlinger Nature Preserve, located in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, is a gem of a natural area but is currently overrun with invasive plants. Our South Mountain Partnership Flex Grant funded a Fall Planting which endeavors to restore the preserve's ecosystem by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native species. This restoration effort will improve the habitat for numerous animals as well as build awareness in the community of the interconnectedness of our community and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. As the nature preserve noted “This grant has been helpful in providing the funds to purchase materials and tools that we would not otherwise have been able to buy.” We are proud of the hard work these volunteers undertook as a part of our Flex Grant!



### ***Become a Partner***

We are always looking to work with organizations in the community who share our goals! By becoming an official “Partner”, you can help support our vision and mission of the Partnership by attending meetings/events, keeping us informed of your organization’s related activities and increasing access to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our region to all! Becoming a partner is easy and free! Find more information [here](#).

## Partner News

### Partner Updates

#### **Volunteer Board Members Needed!**

If you work in the legal field, humanities, or real estate, or have strong non-profit board facilitation skills, let’s talk. Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) conserves and manages important land that is critical habitat for wildlife and recreational access for public health. Making this happen is a large and complex effort and an important part

of the work is the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have a front-row seat to all that it takes to save land and preserve our region's quality of life. There is a seat at the table for you! If you are interested in using your expertise and leadership to help strengthen and enrich these conservation efforts, let's talk. Please reach out to Katie Hess at [khess@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:khess@appalachiantrail.org) or 717-609-4581.

*More details: CPC has defined "Board Development" as a Strategic Goal for 2024-2027 and is seeking individuals to lead the effort to increase board effectiveness and connection to communities. Expanding the board's geographic footprint to match the service area (Cumberland, Perry, and Franklin counties) and diversifying the board with private sector support for its conservation mission are priorities.*

## Join us for Cidernalia MMXXIV

**Saturday, December 14 from 12pm-11pm**

Celebrate with us at Ploughman Cider's 8th Anniversary celebration event called Cidernalia! The ancient Romans gathered in the month of December to celebrate with food, drink, and merriment as equals. Gather with Ploughman Cider and SMP to feast and drink and listen to great music all day and into the night. A portion of proceeds support SMP! Tickets a \$20 each. Included with each ticket sold is one CIDERNALIA MMXXIV glass and your first hard cider on us. Food is provided by Uncle Moe's Soul Food \Truck and is pay as you go. This is an all-ages event; kids 12 and under are free. Designated Driver/All Ages tickets are available.

Learn more and get tickets [HERE](#).

## Outdoor Recreation Businesses Encouraged to Provide Feedback to Elevate the Outdoor Recreation Industry in Pennsylvania

We know the importance and value outdoor recreation brings to Pennsylvania. We know about the well-being and quality of life benefits it brings to communities; however, less is known about how the outdoor recreation industry is powerful contributor to Pennsylvania's economy.

We're ready to change that.

Take this [survey](#) from the [Elevate Outdoors Pennsylvania website](#) by Dec. 31 to share information about your business and operations and what you need to grow and prosper. The information will be used to communicate with the outdoor recreation industry about the steps being taken to elevate the industry and further grow the importance of the outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania.

### More Partner News of Note:

- **PA State Historic Preservation Awards: Community Initiative Awards Nominations Open Through Dec 31:** The Community Initiative Award from the State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) recognizes organizations, municipalities, agencies, individuals, and others whose work embodies the theme of Pennsylvania's statewide historic preservation plan, #PreservationHappensHere. Submit nominations [HERE](#).
- **Community Effort to Save Barnitz Mill:** The mill at Stuart Park is in need of significant repairs to its foundation. It has a history rooted in the industry of its time and we are hoping to see it have new life and an exciting future! If you would like to join the conversation on how to help make the mill the centerpiece of Stuart Park and the community of Dickinson Township, we want your input. If a business were to lease the space, could you envision a small coffee shop, an arts space, a flyfishing outfitter, or an education center? Something else? Take the survey [HERE](#).

# Employment and Funding Opportunities

## Grants

- **Latinos in Heritage Conservation:** Latinos in Heritage Conservation has recently announced the launch of a new grant program that may be of interest to you and/or your regional partners. The deadline to apply is February 5, 2025. Find more information [HERE](#).
- **PA Environment Digest Publishes Ongoing List of Open Grants:** Keeping track of grant funding opportunities can be a challenge. One tool that can help: PA Environment Digest blog, edited by former Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary David Hess. The blog publishes a “Grants and Awards” list of open grant opportunities. The list, updated weekly, highlights funding opportunities from state agencies, the federal government, and even some non-profit organizations. The list also includes deadlines and links to more information about each program. Find more information [HERE](#).
- **The Nature Conservancy's Connectivity, Climate, Communities Fund:** TNC’s Connectivity, Climate, Communities Fund offers the Resilient and Connected Appalachians Grant Program, which provides grants of up to \$100,000 for fee and easement acquisition projects throughout the Appalachians. Most of Pennsylvania is eligible. Please share in your networks. Find more information [HERE](#).

View our listing of [Regional Funding Opportunities](#) on our website, and suggest funds we should add.

## Job Opportunities

- **Director for the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM):** Dickinson College welcomes applications for the Director for the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM). ALLARM's next director will lead a staff of professionals and student interns dedicated to community-based aquatic science. ALLARM engages communities to use science as a tool to investigate the health of their streams and to use the data they generate for aquatic protection and restoration efforts. ALLARM has provided capacity building assistance to Pennsylvania communities to monitor, protect and restore local waterways since 1986. Apply [HERE](#).

View our [Regional Job Board](#) on our website, and send jobs we should add.

## Events

- **Family Owl Prowl | Dec. 11th @ 4:30 p.m. | Strawberry Hill:** Venture into the evening in search of native owls! Discover what makes an owl an excellent hunter and learn of other owls that live and visit our beautiful Pennsylvania woods. Join for hot chocolate and a presentation before a short hike into the woods.
- **A Christmas Carol | Dec. 13 @ 7:30 p.m. | Totem Pole Playhouse:** A multi-talented company of actors, singers and dancers bring Dickens’ tale to life with warmth, music and laughter. A Christmas Carol, adapted by Wil Love and Carl Schurr, evokes the true magic of the holiday season and is entertainment for the entire family. Join us in continuing this holiday tradition. God bless us, everyone. More dates available.
- **Annual Yuletide Celebration | Dec. 14 @ 4 p.m. | Blue Ridge Summit Free Library:** A magical evening for families. Live music, fire truck rides, cookies & cider, Santa hands out candy canes, bird feeder craft for kids, door prizes, quilt raffle. Memorial tree lighting at 6:30pm.
- **Winter Solstice Celebration | Dec. 21 @ 5 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center:** Buttonwood Nature Center is hosting its fourth annual Winter Solstice Celebration. The winter solstice is the longest night-or shortest



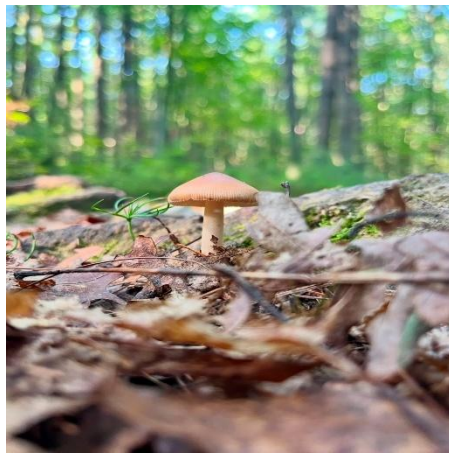
day- of the year, and typically falls around December 21 in the Northern Hemisphere. After the solstice, the days get gradually longer. Since ancient times, people all over the world have recognized this astronomical occurrence and celebrated the “return of the sun” in a variety of ways. Join for entertainment, food, vendors, and more!

- **Christmas on the Hill | Dec. 21 @ 4 p.m. | Strawberry Hill:** Celebrate the season at Christmas on the Hill. A long-time family favorite! Meet Santa in the Nature Classroom and some of our animal ambassadors, enjoy campfire hot cocoa, make your own nature-themed ornaments, and more!

View these events and more on our [Partner Events calendar!](#) You can add your events directly onto our calendar or email them to [jchain@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jchain@appalachiantrail.org).

## Social Media Catchup

*Click to explore our social media channels. Follow us for the latest news, upcoming events, and more!*



## Live, Grow, Lead Healthy.

Despite the different opinions, perspectives, and worldviews that each of us carry, we all share a common trait: we call the South Mountain landscape home. We believe in the power of this common ground to build conversation around the future of this landscape - and our future while living within this landscape.

Learn more at [southmountainpartnership.org](http://southmountainpartnership.org)



# SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP

CONSERVATION NETWORK



*The South Mountain Partnership [SMP] is managed as a public-private partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. SMP is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.*

Unsubscribe [here](#).