



The Latest South Mountain Partnership News

15th Annual “Power of the Partnership” Celebration



The South Mountain Partnership hosts the Annual “Power of the Partnership” Celebration each year. With more than 100 people in attendance, the event celebrates the people and groups protecting and promoting this wonderful place that we all call home – the farms and farmland, historic places, businesses, vibrant communities and downtowns, water and air quality, wildlife and habitat, and parks, trails, and open spaces. We take pride in making this event a fun, tasty, and meaningful program you won’t want to miss.

Join us at the Kings Gap Environmental Education Center this year for the incredible views, rich history, and to learn about newly completed projects at this treasured resource. Registration includes an interactive networking hour, full local lunch, and entrance to the celebration program: inspirational speaker(s), award of the Spirit of South Mountain, award of upcoming Mini-Grant and Flex Grant projects, and an opportunity to connect and celebrate with friends and colleagues, new and old.

In addition to hearing from our host, Cumberland County, guest speakers Julie Vastine and Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward will explore the impact of local advocacy and action in our community. Those working in the conservation fields are experiencing increased challenges that affirm the importance of working together locally to ensure our home is healthy and accessible for generations yet to come. Both of these speakers have a long history of making change in the South Mountain Region. Speakers will explore what residents, influencers, and local officials should do in their community. The event will also feature the awarding of the 2025 South Mountain Grant Program and the Spirit of South Mountain!

These celebrations are a great way to hear about amazing work happening in your home. Come celebrate with us!

REGISTER TODAY

When: Friday, Sept. 12, 2025
11am-3pm

Where: Kings Gap Environmental Education Center
500 Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle, PA 17015

Ticket cost: \$25

*Thank you to our generous
Sponsors!*



Sponsorship opportunities are also available! [Learn more and sign up here](#), plus see a snapshot below:

Lead Healthy - \$1,575 - 1 available

Speaking opportunity at the event
Dedicated visual and verbal recognition at the event
Social media, website, and press release recognition
2 tickets to the event

Celebrate Healthy - \$1,075 - 1 available

Visual and verbal recognition at the event
Social media, website, and press release recognition
2 tickets to the event

Grow Healthy - \$575 - unlimited

Visual and verbal recognition at the event
Social media, website, and press release recognition
1 ticket to the event

Live Healthy - \$250 - unlimited

Visual recognition at the event
Social media recognition

Spirit of South Mountain Nominations

Each year the South Mountain Partnership recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has made significant contributions to advancing a positive and sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.

What qualities of the South Mountain Landscape does SMP seek to protect? Farms and Farmland, Historic Places, Natural Assets(water bodies, air quality, public health), and Recreational Assets(trails, walkability, and open space).

The contribution we'd like to honor can take many shapes, such as:

An organization preserving farms and farmland
A citizen working in their community to promote sustainability or
A steward of our forest land
And so much more, we welcome your creative ideas.



The Spirit of South Mountain award is to be presented at the Annual “Power of the Partnership” Celebration held on Sept. 12th, 2025.

Submissions are due Aug 22, 2025 by 4pm. Click [HERE](#) to submit your nomination.

Research Grants due Sept. 5



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP
RESEARCH CORPS GRANTS**
FUNDING FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

2025 ROLLING APPLICATION DEADLINES:
~~JANUARY 3~~ | ~~JUNE 6~~ | ~~SEPTEMBER 5~~

All projects must be completed by December 31, 2025

The South Mountain Research Corps (SMRC) is seeking opportunities to support academic and student-focused research in environmental sciences, forestry, agriculture, cultural and historic resources, geology, geography, and land use planning.

This year the SMRC will accept applications for research projects that help address our research priorities within the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000. Previous projects have averaged around \$3,000. Priority will be given to proposals that address the research priorities, to proposals that are multidisciplinary in scope, and to proposals that help students develop the skills and expertise necessary for successful careers in land and resource management.

Questions about this program and any technical assistance needed with this form, please contact Julia Chain at jchain@appalachiantrail.org. Funding decisions will be made approximately 2 weeks following the deadline, and projects can begin 2 weeks after that. All projects must be completed by December 1, 2025.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Exploring the Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Program



Did you know the South Mountain Partnership is one of eight conservation landscapes designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources? This multi-county regional work focuses on the goals of vibrant communities, protected natural assets, strategic investments, and quality of life is recognized nationally as a successful collaborative model. Each of the eight designated landscapes are characterized by strong natural assets, including some core public lands, local readiness and buy-in, a commitment to civic engagement, and state-level financial investment and staff support.

Explore the program throughout the state with this [NEW story map](#).

Become a Friend of the South Mountain Partnership

Generations before us worked hard to make South Mountain a place worth calling home. **Now it's our turn to continue that legacy.** Whether you live here, work here, or simply love to visit, this region belongs to all of us — and protecting it means ensuring our communities continue to thrive for generations yet to come.

South Mountain Partnership helps protect our region through our [Flex Grant Program](#), which provides funding for projects that make a real difference. Grants like these have supported farmland preservation, trail development,



environmental education, and even opportunities for college students to gain hands-on experience in environmental studies.

But here's the challenge: every year we hope to award at least \$4,000 in Flex Grants. So far this year, we haven't yet reached our goal.

You can help us reach our goal. [Click here to help fund our Flex Grant Projects](#). Any amount makes an impact.

When you give, you'll be part of a caring community that values our land, history, and people — and you'll see your support in action through regular updates, event invitations, and stories of the difference you're making.

Let's make sure South Mountain continues to thrive, not just for us, but for generations yet to come.



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

Cumberland County Wants Your Feedback on Land Partnerships Plan

Cumberland County is asking for public input on the 2025 Land Partnerships Plan, a countywide strategy addressing farmland preservation, natural resource protection and parks, trails, and greenways.

The Land Partnerships Plan provides a comprehensive blueprint to help the county achieve a healthy balance between preservation and development. It outlines key natural, recreational and agricultural

assets across the county and recommends strategies to protect and enhance resources for current and future generations.

The Plan seeks to encourage action in the community and facilitate partnerships among federal, state, county, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and landowners.

Through these partnerships, Cumberland County aims to implement the Plan's goals and actions to achieve long-term success.



Originally adopted in 2006 and updated in 2013, the latest version of the Plan was funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to review the Plan [HERE](#) and provide written comment by Friday, Sept. 5.

Your voice matters, please share comments and feedback!

If you have question or comments, contact Stephanie Williams at 717-240-5383 or sjwilliams@cumberlandcountypa.gov.

Southern Michaux Trail Survey Last Chance!

Michaux State Forest Southern Trail System Survey

Scan the QR Code or go to southernmichauxtrails.com to complete the survey!



We are looking for feedback from outdoor recreation enthusiasts to better understand current trail usage in the Southern Region of Michaux State Forest. If you currently visit the southern Michaux to hike, bike, hunt, horseback ride or participate in any outdoor activity, please take a moment and complete the survey. Your feedback and participation will help to create a better trail system in the Southern Michaux!



The South Mountain Partnership has helped fund a study by Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability on Southern Michaux trail systems. This work includes assessment of physical trail sustainability, community engagement, and a model recreation map and final report for Michaux State Forest staff to plan trails in the area. However, we need your help to provide feedback on this process. DCNR is seeking public input during this process to create the best sustainable shared-use trail system possible.



[Share your ideas HERE.](#)

More Partner News of Note:

- **Dillsburg's Camp Tuckahoe Article:** Dillsburg's Camp Tuckahoe has created memories and economic impact for more than 75 years. Silas Chamberlin shares his experiences at Camp Tuckahoe over the years in the York Daily Record. Read the full article [HERE](#).
- **Champions for Better Health Awards:** The Partnership for Better Health's Champions for Better Health Awards recognize distinguished health equity advocates in our service area. Leaders can represent a multiplicity of backgrounds and industries that play a vital role in advancing the health and wellness of our region. Community members are invited to nominate local champions whose work and service makes our community a healthy place for everyone to live, learn, work and play. Nominations are welcomed from projects, activities, and initiatives that are ongoing, or ended within the last year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Submit your nomination [HERE](#).
- **Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Native Tree and Shrub Sale:** The 2025 Master Watershed Steward Native Tree and Shrub Sale is the fifth annual fall fundraiser for the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program. Choose among 23 different native trees and shrubs and then select the pickup location most convenient for you from 29 locations across the state. Funds from your purchase will support the Master Watershed Steward activities in that region, such as stream repair projects, tree plantings, youth education programs, and more! Whether you're seeking trees for privacy, foliage, shade, attracting pollinators, or just something beautiful to look at, we have a variety of trees and shrubs to fit your needs and make a nice addition to your property. Find more information and order [HERE](#).

Employment and Funding Opportunities

Grants

- **[CAEDC Local Share Account \(LSA\) Grants](#):** Now accepting applications for community-focused projects like construction, planning, equipment & more. Deadline is Aug. 31.
- **[York County Open Space Grants](#):** Support for land preservation & outdoor spaces. Deadline is Sept. 30.
- **[Adams County Parks, Recreation, and Green Space \(PRGS\) Grant Program](#):** Now accepting applications from municipalities and eligible not-for-profits through August 29. The grant will provide funding for the preservation of agricultural lands, open space, park lands, historic and cultural resources, and the development of recreation and trail projects.
- **[Level I Grants](#):** These grants support projects that advance WellSpan's [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) priorities. Projects should be new or expansions of existing programs, one-time seed, or gap funding, and have measurable impact. Level II grants are not for ongoing operational support. Awards are usually around \$5,000 to \$15,000. This grant offering will be to support

projects with a start date of January 1, 2026. You can access the Level I Application submission portal directly [with this link](#). Applications are due by **October 31, 2025**.

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

Job Opportunities

- **[Agency Advocate](#)**: Ghost Writer is seeking an individual to function as the primary point of contact for the client as well as the coordinator of the client's services across the Ghost Writer team. Agency Advocates are rewarded with job flexibility, autonomy, and work that is personally meaningful. The Agency Advocate assigns work, organizes, and updates agency files, keeps the agency informed, and tracks projects in Ghost Writer's project management software.
- **[Appalachian Landscape Conservation Coordinator](#)**: The Center for Large Landscape Conservation is seeking an Appalachian Landscape Conservation Coordinator that will support collaboration across the Appalachian region to accelerate nature conservation and conservation-driven community development. The Coordinator will coordinate the network focused on the intersection of nature, climate, and the economy in the Appalachian region. The Coordinator will serve as a link and networker between the VCI Appalachian network initiatives and ensure alignment, support the sharing of resources, reduction of duplication between initiatives, and increase knowledge and capacity.
- **[Seasonal Land Stewardship Technician \(Central PA\)](#)**: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is seeking a Land Stewardship Technician that reports to the Land Stewardship Coordinator and will monitor and maintain the boundary lines of the lands conserved for the Appalachian Trail, called the A.T. corridor. This involves hiking off-trail through mountainous forests, clearing vegetation with loppers, putting up boundary signs, repainting blazes on trees, finding survey markers, and recording data. This role will work with other Land Stewardship Technicians to ensure that the Appalachian Trail is protected by a well-marked boundary line and that any violations are promptly found and resolved.
- **[Upper Allen Township Manager](#)**: Upper Allen Township is seeking a dynamic, people-oriented professional to serve as Township Manager. This strategic, engaged executive will help build and maintain a sustainable community where every resident can thrive. This is a high impact leadership position responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Township and executing the vision and policies of the elected Board of Commissioners.

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

Events

- **[Intro To Backpacking Workshop | Aug. 16 @ 11 a.m. | Shippensburg Community Parks and Recreation Authority](#)**: Stop by Furnace Run Park for a deep dive into all things backpacking with your guide: Backcountry Therapy! Learn the basics of how to pack and plan for your first trip,

discover helpful tips and tricks, hang out with an experienced wilderness enthusiast, and get a chance to test out some gear! Adventure is out there! Let us introduce you!

- [UnNatural Fears: Creepy Crawlies | Aug. 16 @ 1 p.m. | Strawberry Hill](#): Entomophobia, an intense and persistent fear of insects and those creepy crawlies we can't always name! Join as we take an in-depth look at insects and other creepy crawlies.
- [Yoga on the Terrace | Aug. 17 @ 10 a.m. | Friends of Kings Gap](#): Join for an all-levels yoga class with a spectacular view of the top of the mountain, led by Ally Gregg and Maurice Sipos. Classes are held on the Mansion terrace and are appropriate for beginners. They include breathing and meditation, and end with a guided relaxation. Modifications will be offered. There is no better way to reset your nervous system and practice mindfulness than in the great outdoors!
- [Beautiful: The Carole King Musical | Aug. 19 -24 @ | Totem Pole Playhouse](#): Before she was hit-maker Carole King, she was Carole Klein, a spunky, young songwriter from Brooklyn with a unique voice. From the chart-topping hits she wrote for the biggest acts in music to her own life-changing, trailblazing success with Tapestry, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical takes you back to where it all began — and takes you on the ride of a lifetime.
- [Summer Music Series | Aug. 22 @ 6 p.m. | Dickinson College](#): Join us for a Friday evening on the farm featuring live music and our famous artisan wood-fired farm pizza! [Ticket](#) includes a personal pizza and additional certified organic farm-fresh sides. Our pizzas are made with local cheese, can be made gluten-free, and we offer optional add-ons such as our seasonal veggies and 100% grass-fed, humanely raised beef! Complimentary water and sun teas available to all. BYOB! Food & entertainment will be picnic-style, please bring your own chairs, cups, and utensils.
- [Annual Jazz Festival | Aug. 24 @ 5 p.m. | Buttonwood Nature Center](#): Buttonwood Nature Center, home of the Institute, presents their annual jazz festival, which continues to spotlight top professional artists each year that light up the outdoor stage with hot summer jazz.
- [Little Learners | Aug. 26 @ 10 a.m. | Friends of Kings Gap](#): The Little Learners program includes hands-on outdoor engagement with the natural world in a safe learning environment. Each lesson will include storytime, an activity, and something to take home. This program is age-appropriate for children 2 – 4 years old. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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.

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



**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](#).