



SHENANDOAH
NATIONAL PARK TRUST

2022 FIELD GUIDE

 David Anhold

Shenandoah National Park is a national treasure by any measure. It's consistently ranked in the top twenty most visited parks in the National Park System, with more than 1.6 million annual visitors. Shenandoah is the largest fully protected area in the mid-Appalachian region and includes 300 square miles of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

When people visit Shenandoah today, they marvel at the stone-walled overlooks, timber cabins, and winding trails built by the CCC in the 1930s and '40s. Many decades from now, visitors will see and appreciate the work of the Shenandoah National Park Trust — and its donors — in the Park: preserving those historic features, removing invasive species, restoring ecosystems, and teaching every generation to love and care for Shenandoah. **These are the projects the Shenandoah National Park Trust is supporting in 2022. Will you join the Trust in this crucial endeavor?**



The Play, Learn, and Serve program provides educational, recreational, and service-learning experiences for youths through adults. Play, Learn, and Serve features formal, curriculum-based programs for students as well as fun after-school and summer activities and multi-day service-learning programs.

 **Funding needed: \$150,000**

The Shenandoah Youth Corps is more than a summer job. It's an action-packed educational opportunity that accomplishes much-needed work in one of America's most popular landscapes while helping participants develop a personal conservation ethic. Young adults, many from underserved or urban communities, work, earn, and learn in this highly successful program.

 **Funding needed: \$75,000**

Inspiring Environmental Stewards for the Future

The future of Shenandoah depends on the next generation to preserve and protect the Park for posterity. Each year, through Trust donors' support, thousands of children, teens, and college students get the chance to participate in virtual learning opportunities, field trips and service programs. These initiatives introduce the Park to a young, diverse audience and offer escalating educational and employment opportunities that keep participants actively involved in outdoor recreation as they reach adulthood.

Your support teaches young people to love Shenandoah for a lifetime.



Internships in Shenandoah

offer engaging work experiences with profound benefits for the Park. Interns work side-by-side with park staff, assisting with park management, operations, and research.

 **Funding needed: \$90,000**



The TRACK Trails program encourages our youngest outdoor enthusiasts. TRACK Trails in Shenandoah are easy trails for children to explore with their families. At each trailhead, an exhibit panel introduces the program and a box holds brochures that the kids use to explore. As part of a nationwide program, the kids can track their experiences via kidsinparks.com to earn badges and prizes.

 **Funding needed: \$3,000**

Wild Shenandoah

Increasing visitation, land use and development patterns, climate change, and invasive species all threaten to disrupt the sensitive ecological relationships that characterize Shenandoah today.

Activities supported by this initiative make significant strides toward ensuring the long-term ecological integrity of Shenandoah National Park, as well as its ability to adapt and evolve.

Your support funds programs that help species that call Shenandoah home survive and thrive in their native environments.



Denise Machado

The Keep Bears Wild initiative aims to ensure the safety and well-being of our beloved black bears. This program enables the Park to monitor the bears and to educate visitors about the harm done by improper food storage, improper trash management, and illegal wildlife viewing and feeding. The goal is to keep visitors and bears safe during their interactions in the Park and to ensure the long-term health of the bear population.

Funding needed: \$75,000

The Invasive Species Management Program removes non-native plants and insects that crowd out native plant species, degrade habitat for wildlife and affect the visitor experience. Invasive plants are one of the most significant threats faced by Shenandoah National Park, and this threat is only expected to increase with climate change. A multi-pronged approach, rooted in the latest research, includes early interventions, biologic controls, and insecticide treatments to protect native species including hemlocks and ash trees.

Funding needed: \$125,000

Enhancing the Visitor Experience

The Trust funds programs that increase safety, improve access, and create opportunities to better allow people to enjoy the time spent in Shenandoah National Park. Federal budgets have not kept pace with growing visitation, and the Park often struggles to keep up with maintenance and visitor services. It is more important than ever to provide additional support to renew heavily used areas and keep Shenandoah's visitors safe.

Your support enables the Park to look beyond its most immediate needs and invest in projects like these, which contribute to meaningful visitor experiences.



Trail maintenance is a necessity for the over 500 miles of backcountry and front country trails throughout the Park. With ever-increasing visitation and limited staff resources, many of these trails have fallen into disrepair. This year we are supporting the maintenance of 16 trails.

Funding needed: \$45,000



Historic and Cultural Preservation



Shenandoah National Park provides a lens through which to view and understand Virginia history and culture. The Park has been home to Native Americans who came to the Shenandoah mountains to hunt and forage each summer; communities of mountain folks who settled in the “hollers”; the Civilian Conservation Corps who built the original Park infrastructure, and many others.

The Trust’s Historic and Cultural Preservation Initiative funds priority projects that reflect Shenandoah National Park’s history, foster connections to places, are accessible to visitors, and increase engagement with the Park’s cultural treasures.

Your support helps the Park honor its past while preserving its unique stories and structures for the future.

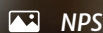


Our archaeological sensing project funds research to discover and accurately characterize subsurface archaeological and infrastructure resources in the Big Meadows Campground, including potential sites, historic utilities, and disturbances that reflect the deep history of the area’s human use.

🌲 Funding needed: \$30,000



Protecting the Natural Setting



Imagine a peaceful evening in Shenandoah, catching the last rays of sun from a mountain overlook. You hear a light wind in the trees and a few birds calling. Below, you see a pastoral valley: green fields, red barns, winding country roads.

Far-sighted Park founders knew that unchecked private development would threaten this experience, so they began the legacy of conservation that gave us Shenandoah National Park. That work continues today.

Your support makes Shenandoah more ecologically resilient by preserving wild and rural areas around its borders.

The Edge Fund supports our work with private land holders and Park staff to protect sensitive areas along the Park’s borders, ensuring the well-being of the natural soundscapes, vistas, habitats, and viewsheds that contribute to the magic of the visitor experience.

🌲 Funding needed: Your gift of any amount

Grouseland is a 225-acre tract within the South Fork of the Shenandoah watershed, contiguous to the federally protected Shenandoah National Park. This environmentally sensitive area is near enough to the South Fork for insectivorous birds and bats to be impacted by contaminants from the river. Preserving these lands protects them from additional disturbance and provides unimpaired habitats to support species resilience.

🌲 Funding needed: Your gift of any amount



FY21 Project Highlights

 Andrew Sentipal

Thanks to the phenomenal generosity of our donors, the Trust committed \$506,976 to Shenandoah National Park in FY2021. Your support funded essential initiatives in interpretation and education and helped enhance the Park's natural and cultural resources.

- **Virtual learning reached 10,290 students in 109 schools** through the Play, Learn, and Serve program. From June to September, in-person programs introduced 603 young people to Shenandoah.

- **Six interns were supported by the Trust in FY21.** Your gifts made it possible for the Park to have interns working in visual information/media, astronomy, and interpretation through the Latino Heritage Internship Program. One Cultural Resource intern assisted with a museum collection management program for over 1 million objects, while two Interpretation and Education interns reached nearly 5,000 visitors with their programs.



- **A record 436 applications** were received for the Artist-in-Residence program, which funds three-week residencies and programming in the Park. The four artists-in-residence in FY21 were quilter Nancy Hershberger, photographer Danielle Austen, sculptor Michelle Stitzlein, and guitarist and composer Nathan Cornelius. (Watercolor artist Patrick Faile deferred his residency to 2022). The artists brought their unique Shenandoah visions to more than 14,000 viewers through virtual programming.

- **Two seasonal employees** were hired to conduct early detection surveys in the Park and stop invasive plants before they have the opportunity to spread. Crews completed initial treatment of the Park's only significant privet infestation on 30 acres near Rockfish Gap. They removed problem species, including Amur honeysuckle and autumn olive, from 97 acres across the Park.
- **Park staff conducted 1,308 interactions with visitors** to educate them about bear safety and avoidance. Staff secured more than 42 large bags of loose trash and food scraps, issued 186 warnings to park visitors for incorrect food storage, and conducted 133 impounds of coolers and food. Your support made it possible for staff to deploy aversive conditioning to bears who are habituated to humans and install wildlife collision warning signs at bear hotspots along Skyline Drive. Only two bears were hit by vehicles in 2021, down from five in 2020.
- **151 trail maintenance volunteers worked 2,834 hours and completed 103 projects** in FY21, an effort made possible by the oversight of Trust-funded Backcountry Trails Volunteer Coordinator Rebecca Unruh. She also directed more than 3,200 paid and volunteer hours to priority maintenance projects.
- **Vistas were restored at four Greene County overlooks**, thanks to an individual donor who matched a gift from Greene County Tourism. Vegetation was trimmed below the Bacon Hollow, Loft Mountain, Ivy Creek and South River overlooks to improve the view.

We're incredibly grateful to our donors for making these achievements possible!

Will you help us do even more for the Park in 2022?

Scan the QR code or visit
www.snptrust.org/donate
to make a gift today.

