



From the Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters team: thank you! 2024 was a big year for Friends and for the monument, and our members, partners, and supporters like YOU make all the accomplishments detailed in this “Year in Review” possible. With collaborative energy, volunteer hours, and financial support from over 1,092 individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations, 2024 saw this community bring the A Monumental Welcome capital campaign to a successful close and maintain strong support for annual programming that benefits the monument and surrounding communities. There’s much work ahead as we dig into a new strategic plan, and we’re grateful to have you as partners in this important work.

-Meghan Cooper, Development Director

An Historic Occasion

On August 17, 2024, Friends hosted a ceremonial ribbon cutting for Tekakapimək Contact Station to mark the completion of major construction at the site. Guests included Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Penobscot Nation Chief Kirk Francis, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Mi’kmaq Nation Vice Chief Richard Silliboy, Roxanne Quimby, National Park Service leaders, and lead funders, alongside the construction and design team. The occasion was a testament to the deep collaborations at the root of the project, with Chief Francis laying out his vision of Tekakapimək as not just a NPS welcome center, but a “Wabanaki community center.” We look forward to supporting NPS in achieving this vision and opening Tekakapimək to the public in summer 2025.



Tekakapimək Contact Station is an endeavor unlike one we have ever seen before, not only in the what – a beautiful space – but in the how. This is the result of a deliberative and collaborative effort with tribal nations to fully honor the traditions, languages, images, kinship, and ancestral representations of the land’s original stewards.

-Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior



2024 At Glance

- 1,092 supporters
- 84 new members
- \$924,447 raised for operations & programs, finished year in black
- 2,513 youth reached
- 6 youth overnights
- 404 attended Stars Over Katahdin
- 2 new vehicles purchased for NPS

View our audited financial statements and form 990 at friendsofkww.org/thebasics



Inspiring Youth

With three seasonal educators joining the team, we expanded school programming, increased overnight trips, and built stronger connections with students. This year, we deepened our impact—taking students on overnights in the monument, immersive trips to UMaine for rock climbing and career exploration, growing our summer programs for teens, and incorporating service learning to give back to the community. 2024 also marked the conclusion of the Katahdin Learning Project framework which guided our work from 2020. With students returning season after season, it's clear these experiences are making a lasting difference.

Park Priority Projects Underway

As a result of the A Monumental Welcome Campaign, Friends is funding \$2.7 million in Priority Park Projects that the National Park Service will be completing through 2028. In 2024, key advancements were made in road maintenance and the development of a new visitor information area on the Hunt Farm parcel, which will have a wayside, vault toilet, parking, and short trail. Additionally, work began on the Loop Road Overlook renovation, which will continue through 2025. Other 2024 highlights include first steps taken in Canada lynx monitoring and signage and wayside planning.

Strategic Planning

Friends achieved a significant milestone by completing a comprehensive 3-year strategic plan. This accomplishment was the result of countless hours of dedicated effort, fueled by the passion and input from our board, staff, Friends members, and the broader community. Central to this plan is our updated mission statement: *To **preserve, protect, and enhance** Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and **inspire** a community dedicated to its future.*

Looking Ahead

We hope to see you at one of our many upcoming events in 2025!

- Membership May - May 7, 12, 22, 29
- Woods and Waters Day - August 17
- Stars Over Katahdin - September 27

Details at friendsofkww.org/events



As a lover of wild places, I'm excited to contribute to the efforts of helping preserve and protect the land of the monument for generations to come. Additionally, the Friends' thoughtful partnership with the Wabanaki and the staff's vision and professionalism played a huge factor in my decision to join the board.

-Brian Threlkeld, Maine Outdoor Brands

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