



Forest Service

Southern Region

1720 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

File Code: 2300

Date: April 9, 2024

Route To:

Subject: Recreation, Wilderness, Heritage, and Volunteer Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)
Volunteer Recognition

To: Forest Supervisors, Area Supervisor, Forest Manager

In FY23 alone, more than 16,000 volunteers across the Southern Region completed more than 550,000 hours of volunteer labor. The total contributions of these volunteers in FY23 were 276 Full-Time Equivalent Employee Time (FTEs). The donated labor is valued more than \$18 million dollars; the social capital generated through the activities is priceless. In celebration and appreciation, we are highlighting the accomplishments of four incredible individual and group volunteers.

These volunteers are highlighted for their dedication, unit impact, and the alignment of their work with regional priorities.

Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen

The Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen (SABCH) have shown outstanding enduring service in volunteerism to the South Zone of the Cherokee National Forest for seventeen years. For close to two decades, SABCH have shown their dedication, tenacity, and positive attitude towards maintaining our National Forest's trail systems. Almost every Thursday for seventeen years now, these devoted volunteers have shown up in oppressive heat and stiffening cold to volunteer on our trails. SABCH alternates districts between Tallon and Ocoee each month to ensure both districts get the help they need. Because of SABCH's capable and enduring work, South Zone Cherokee trails and recreation team was able to complete projects that had been neglected for years due to lack of person power, such as installing new picnic tables and firepits at our most popular day-use area, fixing downed bridges, installing new fee collection tubes, and creating culverts to mitigate drainage issues on a popular bike trail.

Please join us in recognizing the extraordinary volunteers of the Southern Region exemplified by these select few. Acknowledging that stellar volunteer programs are enabled by stellar employees serving as volunteer program coordinators, please also join me in thanking all the incredible employees in the Southern Region who support this work.

Questions may be directed to Southern Regional Volunteer Program Specialist Lindsey Nelson, at lindsey_nelson@usda.gov.

SHERRY
REAVES
KENDERICK ARNEY
Regional Forester

Digitally signed by
SHERRY REAVES
Date: 2024.04.09
17:30:10 -0400 (PST)

cc: Lindsey Nelson