



The Student Conservation Association

annual report 2009



Letter from the Chair



A Baltimore teen spends Earth Day planting trees with President Obama...an SCA intern helps to mitigate the effects of climate change in the national parks...a young Seattle woman gains new skills and confidence serving as a seasonal interpretive ranger...

Every year, thousands of stories like these unfold as SCA links diverse young people to the land, to one another, and to a broad community of like-minded supporters. Like nature itself, this network is symbiotic. Every part depends upon the others and no part can succeed on its own. It is what drives our mission to build the next generation of conservation leaders.

I am pleased to report that in 2009, SCA fielded the highest number of members ever in our history—thanks in large part to you. Practicing restoration, preservation and mitigation, 4,100 SCA members rendered more than two million hours of conservation and made a substantial impact on our landscape. They drew inspiration from the land, honed a powerful ethic of stewardship, and discovered myriad new career tracks.

Of course, the year was not without challenges including a turbulent economy. We were fortunate to be able to address these issues from a position of strength and we have taken the steps necessary to emerge even stronger.

Much of the credit for this goes to my dedicated colleagues on SCA's Board of Directors. I am immensely grateful to them for rising to the occasion. I also applaud Dale Penny and his superb staff for elevating their performance as well, at a time when SCA needed it most.

Never in its 53 years has this organization been more crucial to the future of our youth and environment, and I remain supremely confident in SCA's leadership and integrity.

Thank you for all you do in support of SCA and its remarkable interns and volunteers. In the next few pages, you will meet some incredible people who demonstrate just what we can achieve when we all work together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Goedecke".

Jane Goedecke
Board Chair

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Letter from the President

Last year, SCA engaged more of our nation's youth and protected more of our public lands than ever before. Guided by our mission and grounded in our values, we demonstrated once again that SCA service is among the most effective and relevant practices for the times... no matter what those times may bring.

Clearly, 2009 tested our nation as few other times have in our history. Yet as the economy fell and unemployment climbed, SCA responded by expanding service opportunities for young people—particularly those from under-represented urban communities. By year's end, more than 4,100 volunteers and interns participated in conservation service in all 50 states and in 20 major cities. Our record of delivering quality programs, managing risk, and getting the job done all set new standards of performance.

As top officials sought to expand national service, career opportunities for youth, and stewardship of our environment, SCA continued to be the partner of choice for land management agencies, concerned congressional leaders, and even the President, who marked Earth Day '09 by working with SCA volunteers in Washington, D.C.

SCA always has been led by the simple yet profound belief that young men and women can be a powerful force to conserve our nation's resources, and that through service our members develop their true potential and acquire the qualities necessary to become future conservation leaders

and responsible citizens. Our country, our society and our environment have endured many changes over the past 53 years and, at every stage, SCA has proven to be just as viable as when it was launched by Elizabeth Cushman Titus Putnam in 1957. Last year was no different.

As you will read in this report, young people are turning to SCA as a means of giving back to their country when their country needs them most. Their accomplishments on the land in 2009 were unprecedented and will remain a lasting legacy over the decades ahead. Equally important, many will continue the practice of service and stewardship in their communities and careers for years to come.

While SCA was not immune to the impact of the economy, in many ways we were strengthened by it. We intensified our focus, improved our business practices, and enhanced our relationships with myriad partners and supporters. We withstood the challenges of a turbulent market and project significant growth in programs and service for 2010.

None of this could have been accomplished without the active leadership of SCA's Board of Directors, especially the leadership of Chair Jane Goedecke, and the commitment of our staff. I am grateful to all of these individuals. And, of course, I thank you and the entire SCA community for your continued support and investment in our land, our youth and our future.



Dale M. Penny
President and CEO







SCA Vision:

We envision a world in which conserving our environment is a commitment shared by all young people as they enter their careers and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. Toward that aim, SCA is building a national force of young people working to protect the natural world.



An Earth Day to Remember

For four decades, the celebration of Earth Day has been a rallying point for all who care about preserving our environment. In April 2009, President Barack Obama decided to signal his support for an expanded Serve America Act and observe the 39th annual Earth Day by joining forces with high school volunteers from the Student Conservation Association.

For 17-year-old Baltimore senior and SCA crew member Chris Jackson, that day at Washington D.C.'s Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens is one he will never forget; one that he will someday tell his grandkids about.

“Since starting with SCA, I’ve learned that nothing is impossible. And even more importantly, I’ve learned the true meaning of service and giving back.”

“I was camping when I got the call letting me know that I had been chosen to plant trees with the President and First Lady on Earth Day. Meeting President Obama is something I never dreamed possible. But back then I didn’t think I would clear off a five-mile-long trail with several other students in less than two days either.

“Since starting with SCA, I’ve learned that nothing is impossible. And even more importantly, I’ve learned the true meaning of service and giving back. I hope many more students will have the chance to learn the valuable skills I did.

“Thank you, SCA, for helping to open so many doors for me and the many other students who seek life-changing service opportunities.”



SCA crew member Chris Jackson

SCA's pioneering community conservation programs have grown rapidly in recent years, expanding from 326 students in six cities in 2006 to approximately 1,500 students in 21 urban communities last year—effectively introducing under-served populations to green careers and the natural world around them.

For more alumni stories, photos and profiles, visit thesca.org/blog

“Supporting the work of the SCA is as important to me as supporting the passions and visions of my three children.”



Kimberly Reene hiking near Kananaski Village, Alberta, Canada

Turning a Passion into a Legacy

Kimberly Reene, avid hiker, conservationist, writer and mother of three, supports the Student Conservation Association to ensure a lasting, living legacy.

“As a long time supporter, I have very deep, strong feelings for SCA and its mission to build a cadre of young people who value the land and work to ensure that our wild places exist for future generations to enjoy.

“SCA is a place that helps students to experience the joys of giving back, being in nature, and working alongside others in pursuit of a shared goal: conservation.

“These kinds of experiences teach us how to live lightly on the land.

“A few years ago, I spent an extraordinary week at Acadia National Park doing trail work because I wanted to experience what it felt like to be an SCA student in the field. Some of the trails we restored dated back to 1910. I lived in a tent at a campsite

with other ‘vacationing’ professionals doing sweaty, hard work every day. I learned about hazel hoes, rock bars and a whole lot more! We carried everything on our backs—food, water, hand tools and supplies—for a mile or more each day as we worked along the trails. I enjoyed the rewards of living simply and sustainably while working with a team of like-minded people. What a thrill!

“When I began making plans for my estate, there was never a question of whether SCA would be included. After all, the students and people who work with SCA feel like family to me. Supporting the work of SCA is as important to me as supporting the passions and visions of my three children. I want to provide life-changing opportunities to young people today and in the future.”





On the Path to Success

Think of your favorite national park or forest. Virtually every one of them includes SCA alumni on staff, from superintendents to rangers. And those numbers will only grow, as last year, SCA put more of America's best and brightest to work than ever before.

“Everyone should have the chance to find a cause they feel passionate about. SCA did that for me.”

In California, dozens of interns from across the country spent months in the field aiding at-risk wilderness areas. “I wanted to give young people experience with BLM, people who could be our replacements when we retired,” states Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Coordinator Paul Brink. “I thought, ‘what’s the best organization to work with?’ It was SCA.”

The team put in long, hard days restoring desert landscapes scarred by unauthorized off road vehicles and constructing hiking trails in the King Range Wilderness Area. Brink says the work was top notch, yet he was even more impressed by the interns’ passion for the land.

“I was astounded at how, at the end of their tour, they seemed to be spiritually fulfilled,” he notes. “It put a tear in my eye.”

Meanwhile, at North Cascades National Park, seasonal interpretive ranger Jaya Ghosh spent the summer leading visitors on tours of the park. Jaya, a college sophomore studying geology, joined the Cascade staff only four years removed from her first SCA trail crew at nearby Mount Rainier.

“SCA taught me the ropes and still serves as an amazing support system for everything I do,” says Jaya. She hopes to dedicate her career to protecting the planet and draws much motivation from her summer in the Cascades. “Everyone should have a chance to find a cause they feel passionate about. SCA did that for me.”



Jaya Ghosh at North Cascades National Park

From Kenai to Key West, and from Kilauea to Cadillac, of the 4,100 diverse young people SCA placed in conservation positions last year, 1,500 served in 222 national parks, where they rendered 750,000 hours of service.



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“I believe you can only learn so much in the classroom... sometimes you have to go out there and get your hands dirty.” - *Alternative Spring Break participant Reilly Newman*

Sharing a Commitment to Conservation

The number of youth engaged in SCA programs is growing rapidly, as more and more corporations lend their support to our mission of conservation.

Through the generosity of Johnson Controls, a worldwide leader in sustainability, SCA has refined and expanded community programs that help ethnically diverse urban youth develop links to nature, leadership skills, and paths to prosperity. In Baltimore, Detroit and Milwaukee, hundreds of teens are employed in outdoor summer jobs in what Jennifer Mattes, director of Global Public Affairs at Johnson Controls, describes as “a model for a public-private-non-profit partnerships.”

“SCA brings expertise in environmental stewardship, leadership development and diversity all into one program, which matches our corporate values, and our commitment to sustainability and the community,” Mattes states.

And last year, the U.S. Conference of Mayors cited SCA’s Milwaukee program as one of the country’s six “best practices in green jobs for youth.”

Across the nation, on campuses and online, SCA outreach is supported by American Eagle Outfitters. The reach of these efforts is substantial and enlists hundreds of students in conservation every year.

“At American Eagle Outfitters, our mantra is Live Your Life, and we believe the Student Conservation Association helps young people do just that,” said Marcie Eberhart, director of the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation. “It is a powerful partnership with tremendous potential.”

Other 2009 SCA sponsors include Walmart, advancing community stewardship and green jobs training nationwide; Amtrak, providing environmental education and youth employment to diverse urban youth; and REI, supporting hands-on conservation service and outdoor education and recreation.

For the third consecutive year, undergrads from across the U.S. skipped sitting poolside to spend long, hard days revegging native species and removing graffiti at one of nature’s most spectacular settings: Grand Canyon National Park. As the presenting sponsor of SCA’s Alternative Spring Break program, American Eagle Outfitters empowers college students from all over the country to take action to conserve our environment.





Gaining a Foothold on the Future Through Our Youth

Jim Dougan's "love affair" with the national parks began as a young boy growing up in the Midwest. Jim's parents felt it was very important to connect with nature and during summer vacations the family visited many of the national parks. These early experiences led to a long and fruitful career with the parks, which in turn led to a professional and personal relationship with SCA.

"I was first exposed to SCA while working at Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota. We had four SCA volunteers and I remember being immediately impressed by their skills, work ethics and positive attitudes. I have now had the pleasure of working with SCA members for over 20 years.

"SCA cultivates advocates for a more sustainable world and is essential to the management and ongoing eco-health of our national parks."

"My personal philosophy is that the greater good is a more beautiful and sustainable world and SCA is a key part in making that happen. It wasn't until 1991 that I started to think about supporting the organization and began to realize just how important SCA was to me personally and to the future of our precious wild places.

"SCA reinforces the notion that volunteering is an important cornerstone of a democratic society and that it's important for young people—the future stewards of our planet—to learn about conservation. SCA cultivates advocates for a more sustainable world and is essential to the management and ongoing eco-health of the parks.

"I aspire to live lightly on the land and believe that less is more. Supporting SCA is my way of gaining a foothold in a future that I want to be a part of, long after I am gone."



Jim Dougan, far right, NPS Ranger and SCA supporter

Here's some of what you made possible last year:

- 4,100 interns and crew members placed on America's public lands
- 550 sites served
- 56,000 acres of habitat restored
- 90,000 native plants planted
- 4,000 miles of trail built or maintained
- 1,400 miles of waterfront areas rehabbed
- 2 million hours of environmental service



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CONSERVAT



CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE.



SCA Mission:

To build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

“SCA brings the expertise of environmental stewardship, leadership development and diversity all into one program, which matches our corporate values, and our commitment to sustainability and the community.”

*- Jennifer Mattes,
Director of Global Public
Affairs, Johnson Controls*

Paving the Way for a “Greener” Tomorrow

To address conservation priorities ranging from sustainability to diversity, SCA is supported by nearly 300 charitable foundations nationwide.

“Our long-term support of SCA has resulted in new career paths for our youth and new trails and safer parks for our city,” says Calvin Cafritz, president and CEO of The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, a long time supporter of SCA’s pioneering urban conservation program in Washington, D.C.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation supports SCA’s Newark conservation programs because, says President David Grant, SCA is “emphatically for something” and “turns deep principles and values into action.”

In Florida, SCA collaborates with the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation to provide low-income youth with paid service-learning experiences in area parks. Every summer, scores of local students gain environmental education, leadership training and career preparedness. “Hands-on learning, team building, leadership development and interaction with incredible adult role models take place each and every day,” says Jaguars

Foundation Executive Director Peter Racine. “Youth learn a life-long lesson that hard work, education, determination and hope lead to success.”

And SCA has partnered for the past decade with the Houston Endowment to expand opportunities for teens in Texas and across the U.S. More than 1,000 young people—many from underrepresented or underprivileged communities—gained tangible job skills while strengthening the natural world around them.

“The time and energy that SCA participants contribute protects our natural environment, preserves our diverse ecosystems, and provides our residents with accessible opportunities for outdoor recreation,” states Houston Endowment’s Elizabeth Love.

SCA has recently extended or embarked on partnerships with The Boeing Charitable Trust, the Bullitt Foundation, and the ExxonMobil Foundation. We are grateful to our foundation friends for the opportunity to join together in supporting our younger citizens and the environmental interests of the communities we serve.



Above: Newark crew members work to clear out a vacant lot in the city to prepare it for a community vegetable garden.

Right: Philadelphia crew members clear out sediment, leaves and other debris to prevent erosion in the welcome area at Valley Forge National Historical Park.





CONSERVATION
BEGINS
HERE



SCA

Addressing Climate Change on Public Lands

SCA intern Allyssa Gabriel was surprised by the amount of plastic bottles, cardboard and fast food wrappers in a single trash receptacle. Up to 90% of it, she estimated, was recyclable.

She was even more surprised by the source of the unsorted refuse: employees at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hangar in Fairbanks, AK.

“It’s rewarding to be directly responsible for helping the National Park Service quantify its carbon footprint.”

As the Greening Coordinator for the Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats Refuges, Allyssa quickly turned things around. She inventoried trash, expanded recycling and waste prevention, and promoted green purchasing. She even convinced field staff to bring in recyclables from remote camps.

In just the program’s first month, recycled materials grew by more than 1,100 pounds. “It is only through efforts of people like Allyssa,” says Refuge Manager Mike Spindler, “that we will be able to meet our goals for a more sustainable footprint well into the future.”

Mitigating climate change was the focus of SCA intern Justin Ohlschlager, who helped 14 national parks in the Pacific Northwest design separate climate action plans.

The project included cataloging park assets and the effects of climate change on each; assessing energy and fuel usage, waste, and procurement; and developing remedial strategies.

“The job was hard,” he says, “but it’s rewarding to be directly responsible for helping the National Park Service quantify its carbon footprint, with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”



SCA Climate Change Intern
Justin Ohlschlager

■ Ninety percent of SCA members indicate that they gained new skills and accomplished meaningful work through their service, and 95% intend to remain active stewards.



See us in action!

Watch and listen to member stories at youtube.com/user/conservationinaction



Ways you can support SCA:

- **Donate** now and help put more youth into the field in 2010
- **Talk** to your family and friends about SCA
- **Plan** an estate gift and leave a legacy for SCA

To learn more, call us at 603.543.1700 or visit

thesca.org

Our Supporters

With great appreciation, the Student Conservation Association salutes the following individuals, alumni, foundations, corporations, and community organizations for their generous support and trust. These gifts help to protect valued national parks, forests and urban green spaces, as well as cultural sites. Most importantly, they reflect the deep and enduring commitment of friends whose spirit continually inspires our work.

Corporations and Foundations (includes gifts made between 10/1/08 and 12/31/09)

\$100,000 or more

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Do Something GRAND

for Our Youth and Our Land

Leave a Legacy to SCA

There are many ways to create a legacy that will help to build new generations of conservation leaders who will protect our parks, forests, refuges, seashores and urban communities. If it is time to create or review your will or living trust, you can designate SCA as a beneficiary of a set dollar amount, a particular asset or a percentage of your estate or trust assets.

You can also use do-it-yourself techniques. Leave the following assets to SCA by completing simple forms on your own:

Retirement Plan • Life Insurance Policy
Bank or Brokerage Account

All legacy gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated.

**For more information, please contact
Hugh Montgomery, SCA's Director of
Gift Planning, directly at 603.504.3241
or hmontgomery@thesca.org.**

\$10,000 or more

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SCA is recognized by Charity Navigator with its highest four-star rating. The American Institute of Philanthropy also ranks SCA among America's top conservation charities for fundraising efficiency.



SCA is a proud member of Earth Share, a federation of nonprofit conservation and environmental organizations that provides opportunities for individuals to contribute funds through workplace giving campaigns.

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SCA is a proud partner of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service Network.

SCA is a nonprofit, charitable organization as qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. SCA is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to workforce diversity.

Financial Report

SCA provides young people with opportunities to serve, learn, and grow while protecting the country's natural and cultural treasures. This is our mission; this is why we exist. And in 2009, our nation needed more from SCA: more youth in productive service, more green job training, and more support on our public lands.

We responded by placing a record number of young adults in our parks, forests and communities. To accomplish this as the economic downturn impacted partner budgets and philanthropic giving, SCA utilized its balance sheet. Operating expenses outpaced operating revenues as SCA chose to invest against the trends of the economic weakness. At the same time, we tightened budgets on controllable expenses, maximized productivity, and focused our investments on those areas that most benefited our short-term mission goals.

As a result, we increased our overall membership, significantly expanded our pioneering community conservation programs, and brought greater diversity to the conservation field. Of course, we also preserved hundreds of irreplaceable icons across the American landscape.

SCA believes that this level of investment in our mission during a challenging economy was both proper and consistent with the responsibilities of a nonprofit. And, apparently, others agree.

Charity Navigator recently awarded SCA its highest four-star rating, the American Institute of Philanthropy ranks us among the nation's best performing nonprofits, and The Corporate Fund last year recognized SCA for excellence in nonprofit management.

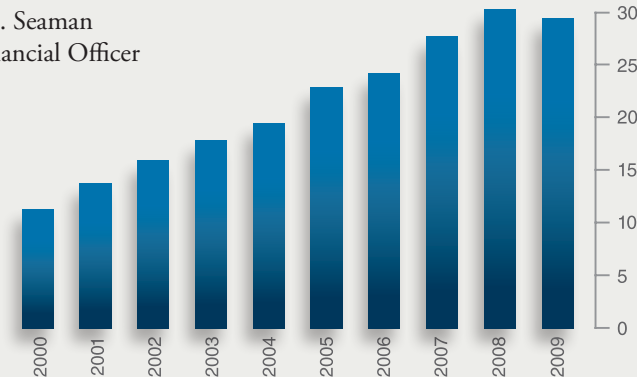
SCA will continue to invest in our young people as we maximize value from the investments made with us by our friends and partners.

Copies of SCA's complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Seaman
Chief Financial Officer



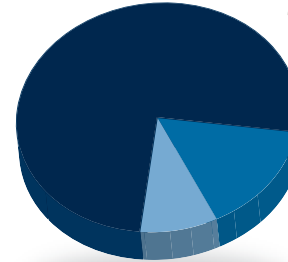
SCA Operating Revenue 2000-2009 (in millions)

Statement of Activities 2008-2009

For Years Ended September 30 (\$ in Thousands)

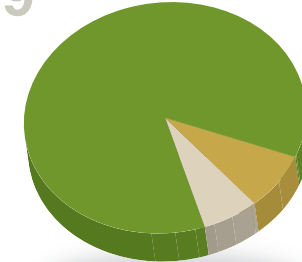
OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2008	2009
Agency and Partner Revenue	\$22,003	\$21,600
Gifts and Grants	3,979	4,356
Individual Giving	2,859	2,484
Other Income	323	(13)
Released from Restriction		
Deferred Grant Revenue	953	567
Endowment Contribution	319	0
Total Operating Support and Revenue	30,436	28,994
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program Expenses:		
Field Expenses	\$17,659	\$20,233
Program Support and Development	6,622	6,194
Participant Recruitment	1,396	1,506
Total Program Expenses	\$25,677	\$27,933
General and Administrative	2,562	2,552
Fundraising for Operations	1,802	1,800
Total Operating Expenses	\$30,041	\$32,285
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$395	(\$3,291)
RESTRICTED REVENUES		
Board Designated Planned Gifts for Endowment (Note 1)	\$1,217	\$301
Expenses Related to Planned Giving	(290)	(230)
Temporarily Restricted Gifts and Grants (Note 2)	637	527
Donor Restricted Gifts to Endowment	63	110
Return on Investments	(1,139)	111
Released from Restriction	(1,271)	(567)
Net Restricted Revenues	(\$783)	\$252
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(\$388)	(\$3,039)
BALANCE SHEET		
Total Assets	\$25,237	\$23,831
Total Liabilities	12,287	13,920
ENDOWMENT VALUE AT SEPTEMBER 30		
Board Designated Funds (Note 1)	\$4,170	\$4,125
Donor Restricted Funds	3,163	4,003
Total Endowment Funds	\$7,333	\$8,128

2009



2009 Support and Revenue

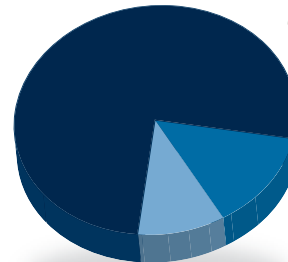
- Agency and Partner Revenue 76.0%
- Foundation and Corporate Grants 15.3%
- Gifts from Individuals 8.7%



2009 Expenses

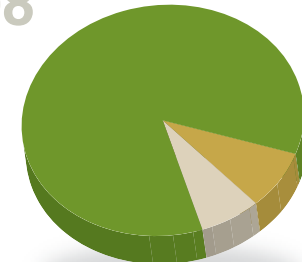
- Program Expenses 86.0%
- General & Administrative 7.8%
- Fundraising 6.2%

2008



2008 Support and Revenue

- Agency and Partner Revenue 76.6%
- Foundation and Corporate Grants 13.6%
- Gifts from Individuals 9.8%



2008 Expenses

- Program Expenses 84.7%
- General & Administrative 8.4%
- Fundraising 6.9%

Note 1: Board Designated: All unrestricted bequests and other planned gifts to SCA's Endowment

Note 2: Temporarily Restricted Gifts and Grants: Grants awarded to SCA in current year to be received or expended in future years



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