

SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Florida is a place worth protecting.

From the Everglades and our state parks to the wildlife that depends on them, the places we love face extraordinary pressures. But if this year has reminded me of anything, it is that when Floridians come together, we can make a difference.

This year, Sierra Club Florida showed up again and again. We stood up for Florida's black bears and wildlife. We fought to protect our coasts and public lands. We worked alongside communities confronting pollution and threats to clean air and water. And we continued investing in the people who will carry this work forward, from students finding their voices as environmental advocates to volunteers learning to lead their neighbors into Florida's wild places.

You'll read about some of those efforts in the pages ahead. They represent only a fraction of what happens every day across our 16 local groups and throughout the state. But what I'm proudest of isn't any single campaign or victory. It's the community behind them.

In 2026, we brought together more Floridians who care deeply about the future of this state. We trained new volunteer leaders, strengthened our local groups, expanded opportunities for young people to get involved, and completed a new strategic plan to guide Sierra Club Florida through 2028.

Together, we are building an organization capable not only of responding to the challenges Florida faces today, but of shaping the Florida we want to leave to future generations.

There will always be another threat to a special place, another species that needs a voice, another community asking for help, and another decision that will shape Florida's future. Our responsibility is to be ready – and to keep building the people power necessary to meet those moments. Whether you volunteered at an event, attended an outing, contacted a decision-maker, supported our work financially, partnered with us in your community, or simply shared our message with someone else: you are part of this.

Thank you for standing with Sierra Club Florida and for believing that together, we can protect the Florida we love.

With gratitude,

Susannah Randolph



Susannah Randolph
Chapter Director

FY 2026: BY THE NUMBERS

29,264
MEMBERS STATEWIDE

15,386
NEW SUPPORTERS

2,050
OUTINGS PARTICIPANTS

5
LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

214
OUTINGS HELD

271
VOLUNTEER LEADERS



4
MAJOR LEGAL ACTIONS

500+
ACTION ALERTS

127
MEDIA STORIES

OUR WORK

From fighting for clean water and our wildlife, to pushing back against land development and sprawl, your support powers Sierra Club Florida's work to safeguard our environment and future.

Black Bears

For the second year in a row, Florida's black bears face a state-sanctioned hunt, with 215 hunting permits available through a lottery. But rather than stand by, Floridians found a creative way to fight back.

Through our *Spare a Bear, Bag a Tag* campaign, Sierra Club Florida and our coalition partners rallied supporters to enter the lottery – not to hunt bears, but to save them.

Early results confirm that non-hunters have secured more than half of the available permits, potentially preventing dozens of bears from being killed. Each permit kept out of a hunter's hands represents a chance for a bear to survive, even as our advocacy for science-based wildlife management and habitat protection continues.





Save Our Shores

In 2026, federal efforts to weaken Endangered Species Act protections opened the door to expanded offshore drilling, putting Rice's whales and other endangered species in the Gulf at greater risk. These threats extend beyond marine wildlife, endangering Florida's coastal communities, water quality, economy, and way of life.

In response, Sierra Club Florida launched its *Save Our Shores* campaign to defend our coastal ecosystems, protect our wildlife, and safeguard our clean energy future. Through grassroots organizing, public education, coalition building, and advocacy, the campaign mobilized thousands of Floridians across the state to stand up for our shores and protect the natural resources that make Florida special.

SAVE OUR SHORES
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Fighting AI Data Centers



As massive AI data centers seek to expand across Florida, communities face growing threats to water, natural lands and electricity costs. These facilities demand enormous resources, raising questions about environmental impacts and whether everyday Floridians will be left paying the price.

In response, Sierra Club Florida launched a new Citizen Action Toolkit in 2026, giving residents the knowledge and resources to challenge proposed developments in their communities. With guidance on navigating local decisions, asking tough questions, and organizing opposition, the toolkit empowers Floridians to take action before projects are approved.

It's a proactive approach to protecting Florida's resources: putting information and organizing tools directly into the hands of the people whose communities could be affected.





Everglades Detention Center

When the Everglades Detention Center, known as "Alligator Alcatraz," opened in the heart of one of Florida's most treasured ecosystems, Sierra Club Florida joined the Miccosukee Tribe and environmental partners in demanding its closure. Supporters mobilized at protests, spoke out against environmental destruction and human rights abuses, and refused to let the Everglades become a symbol of fear.

Through our first *Outings to Resistance* in Big Cypress National Preserve, we brought people together from across the country to experience this extraordinary landscape and build solidarity in the face of injustice.

Less than a year after opening, the detention center officially shut down. But the work isn't finished. We're continuing to demand environmental remediation and permanent protection of this extraordinary landscape.



Stop the Burn-Go Green

For too long, Glades communities have faced harmful smoke and pollution from pre-harvest sugarcane burning. Sierra Club Florida's *Stop the Burn-Go Green* campaign is working to change that by strengthening local partnerships, expanding grassroots organizing, and empowering residents to demand cleaner air.

The 2026 sugarcane season brought encouraging progress, with a record decrease in permitted burns and a record increase in burn-free green harvesting. These gains bring us closer to a future where Glades residents can breathe easier and sustainable agriculture can thrive.





Don't Incinerate; Innovate!

For decades, communities across Miami-Dade County, from West Coconut Grove to Doral, have faced the health and environmental consequences of waste incineration. Sierra Club Florida's *Don't Incinerate; Innovate!* is uniting residents and environmental partners to challenge new incinerators and champion a different future for waste management. By advocating for zero-waste solutions that prioritize reducing, reusing, and recycling, we're working toward healthier communities without repeating the environmental injustices of the past.

Toxic Railroad Ties in Chatmire

When CSX dumped 100,000 toxic, creosote-coated railroad ties near homes and the Rainbow River in August 2025, residents of Chatmire, a historically Black community in Dunnellon, stood up to protect their health and environment.

Sierra Club Florida joined residents and environmental partners to demand accountability, helping secure a commitment from CSX to remove the ties. After the stockpile caught fire in February 2026, the coalition intensified its efforts. By mid-April, the ties were removed and the site cleaned up – underscoring the power of grassroots organizing and what communities can accomplish when they stand together.





No Garbage Juice

A Central Florida landfill is seeking permission to inject toxic landfill leachate, often called "garbage juice," deep underground near the Floridan Aquifer, the source of drinking water for millions of Floridians. In response, Sierra Club Florida is building a powerful coalition of residents, community leaders, and environmental partners to fight back, mobilize, and demand that state regulators reject the proposed deep injection well and keep garbage juice out of Florida's drinking water.

BUILDING A STRONGER FLORIDA

Your support helps drive Sierra Club Florida's vision for a better, brighter future where wildlife can thrive, nature is protected, communities are healthy, and every generation has a voice.



CONNECTING FLORIDIANS WITH NATURE

There's something powerful about experiencing the places we're working to protect. Through **214 outings that welcomed over 2,000 participants**, Sierra Club Florida brought people together to explore our natural wonders, build community, and deepen their connections to the outdoors.

Behind every outing is a dedicated network of volunteer leaders who share knowledge, enthusiasm, and love of Florida's wild places. Through seasonal training, staff and current and prospective volunteers build skills, exchange ideas, and strengthen the network behind these experiences. With a new Outings Program Manager and continued investment in volunteer leadership, we're building a stronger, more accessible outings program across the state.

We also expanded opportunities for more Floridians to experience the outdoors. **Our first Spanish-language LGBTQ outing** in South Florida brought community members to Biscayne National Park, connecting them with a natural treasure in their own backyard. Every outing creates an opportunity to build community, connect with Florida's natural places, and inspire more people to stand up and protect them.



GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

The next generation of environmental leaders isn't waiting for the future. They're already making a difference in Florida's schools, on college campuses, and in their communities. Through our **Green Schools Program**, students are discovering what sustainability looks like in action, from school gardens to healthier learning environments. This year, South Plantation High School earned its long-awaited Green Apple certification.



At the University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University, we foster **student-led Sierra Club groups** that give students opportunities to lead environmental initiatives and engage their peers. USF student Trent Quintana also serves on our Executive Committee, bringing a student voice to Chapter leadership.



Our college-credit internship program has welcomed more than a dozen students since summer 2025, providing hands-on experience while strengthening our local groups.

These programs aren't just preparing tomorrow's environmental leaders. They're giving young Floridians opportunities to lead today.

From Student Volunteer to Environmental Leader: Meet Leo Molina



For Leo Molina, environmental advocacy started with a simple project: removing invasive Brazilian pepper trees in his Tampa community.

As a high school student, Leo was looking for ways to make a difference in the environment around him. Through those early conservation projects, he connected with a Sierra Club volunteer who introduced him to a much larger community of people working to protect Florida. **That one connection opened doors.**

Leo became president of his high school's Sierra Club, participated in Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO), attended Chapter gatherings, and traveled to Tallahassee for Sierra Club Florida's Lobby Day. Along the way, he discovered that environmental advocacy was about more than protecting natural places. It was also about building relationships, learning from others, and finding opportunities to lead.

Today, Leo is studying political science at the University of South Florida, where he's helping build a Sierra Club student group and connect more young people with environmental advocacy.



Through his involvement, he's connected with longtime environmental advocates, organizers, volunteers, and fellow students who share his commitment to protecting Florida. Those relationships have helped him understand how environmental change happens, and how much stronger that work becomes when people from different generations and backgrounds come together.

Leo's experiences have also taken him beyond Florida. Through a Sierra Student Coalition summer training in North Carolina, he connected with other young environmental leaders and developed skills to bring back to his own community. For Leo, effective organizing begins with understanding the people around you, listening to their concerns, and creating opportunities for them to participate. **Now he wants to help other students discover the same opportunities that shaped his own journey.**

Leo's story illustrates what Sierra Club Florida's investment in youth leadership can make possible. A volunteer's encouragement, an opportunity to participate, and a welcoming community helped turn one student's interest in conservation into a growing commitment to environmental leadership. And that impact continues to multiply as Leo creates opportunities for others.

Someone once opened that door for Leo. Now, he's holding it open for someone else.

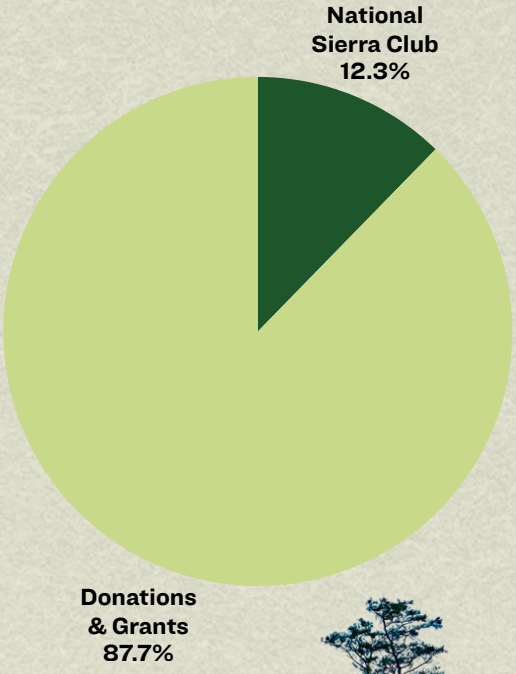
FY 2026: FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

In FY26, **nearly 88% of Sierra Club Florida's revenue came from donations and philanthropic support**, fueling our conservation, advocacy, outings, and youth programs. **More than 77% of expenditures supported programmatic work.**

Expenses exceeded revenue by approximately $80,000, reflecting in part the timing of contributions and investments in expanded program capacity. The Chapter **maintained approximately seven months of operating reserves, providing a strong foundation for the work ahead.**

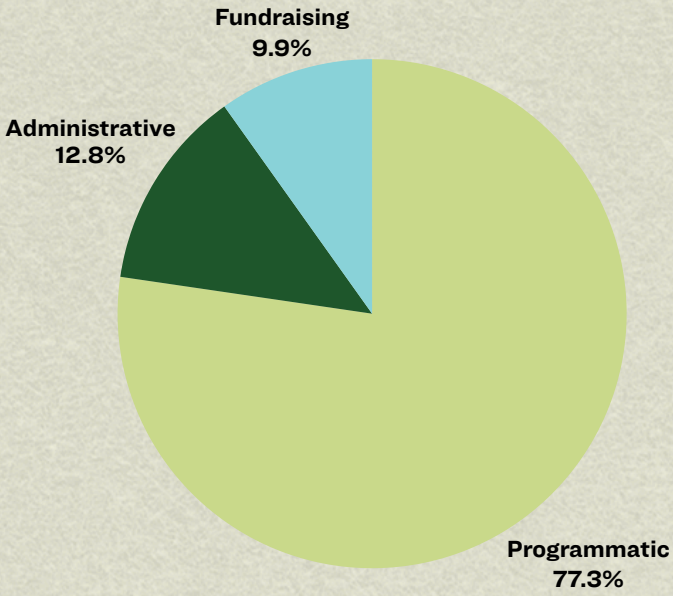
REVENUE

Total: $2.19M



EXPENSES

Total: $2.27M



WHO WE ARE

7	16	14
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	LOCAL GROUPS	CHAPTER STAFF

THANK YOU!

Because of you, we're protecting Florida's wildlife and wild places, building healthier communities, and inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.

Together, we're creating a stronger future for Florida.



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

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