

2025 Volunteer Annual Report

Castle in the Clouds

Submitted by Kim Prause

January, 2026

In 2025, volunteers proved, once again, that they are one of the Castle's most invaluable resources. Over the course of the year, 114 dedicated volunteers generously gave their time and talents to support the Castle in countless ways. They led hikes and guided walks, invited guests to view the sun through solar telescopes and facilitated storytime craft projects. Volunteers supported field trips that welcomed 130 students by serving as guides inside Lucknow, leading art or beekeeping workshops and supporting historical walks throughout the property. Volunteers welcomed guests as they arrived on the property, as Carriage House greeters, and inside Lucknow, serving as museum interpreters. Volunteers supported wedding and event staff, prepared new-homeowner reports for the development team and led garden tours. A dedicated team of garden volunteers worked tirelessly this summer to keep the grounds looking beautiful despite drought conditions and unirrigated gardens.

In addition to individual volunteers, we were fortunate to partner with several different groups throughout the season. 10 Moultonborough Academy students walked the estate road removing large debris in advance of the spring cleanup crew. We were joined by 27 members of one family who painted picnic tables and the parking lot railings during a morning of family community service. 15 volunteers from Granite State Ambassadors joined 11 Castle volunteers to make the annual Castle Car Show possible. We were once again joined by 4 Miss NH Scholarship recipients during Christmas at the Castle.

In total, volunteers contributed 2929.8 hours of service in 2025. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization Independent Sector, currently places a value of over \$34 per volunteer hour. At that rate, volunteers contributed the equivalent of nearly \$102,000 worth of time last year.

Some 2025 Highlights:

- **Volunteer-Led Programs:** Some programs we offer here at the Castle simply would not happen without the planning and organization of volunteers. A hardy group of five hiking volunteers spent 300 hours planning, organizing and leading the very popular Castle hiking series. They introduced 151 guests to the extensive natural resources available here at the Castle on 23 different hikes, covering over 68 miles of trails.
- **Castle Car Show:** As the car show grows each year, the size of the volunteer team has needed to grow, as well. We called in support from Granite State Ambassadors this year, which grew our volunteer team to 26 people, giving their time to make this important event possible. We will officially join the ranks of Granite State Ambassador Centers in 2026, offering even more opportunities for volunteers from all over the state to engage with the Castle.

- **Gardens:** A core group of garden volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the season to maintain the beauty of the Castle grounds. Their responsibilities grew this year with the addition of the Café plantings and the expanded plantings around Brook Lodge. The very hot, dry weather presented a daunting challenge throughout much of the season, and they worked hard to water daily. At the end of the season, we facilitated an exchange with The Fells, welcoming their garden volunteers on a tour of Lucknow's grounds. Several of our volunteers then traveled to Sunapee to tour the historic gardens at The Fells.
- **Brown Bag Lunches:** In an attempt to offer volunteers more informal opportunities to engage with team members and each other, we offered monthly Brown Bag Lunches, inviting volunteers and staff to bring their lunches and questions for that month's guest. Several volunteers enjoyed chats with Chuck and Robin. For the final meeting in the series, we offered volunteers the chance to experience the basement tour, and 10 volunteers took advantage of that opportunity. Overall, the series received positive reviews, though was not as well-attended as hoped. For next year, we hope to build on the intention of the Brown Bag Lunch, but perhaps use a different model. Following the success of the volunteer exchange with the Fells, we hope to foster a reciprocity model with other Lakes Region museums, offering our volunteers an added benefit for giving their time to the Castle.

On the following pages, you'll find a visual breakdown of volunteer engagement trends and data. These numbers reflect more than just hours or tasks completed; they represent an important part of what makes the Castle so special: individuals who contribute their time, talents, and energy to make every visitor experience extraordinary.

Volunteering at the Castle: 2025

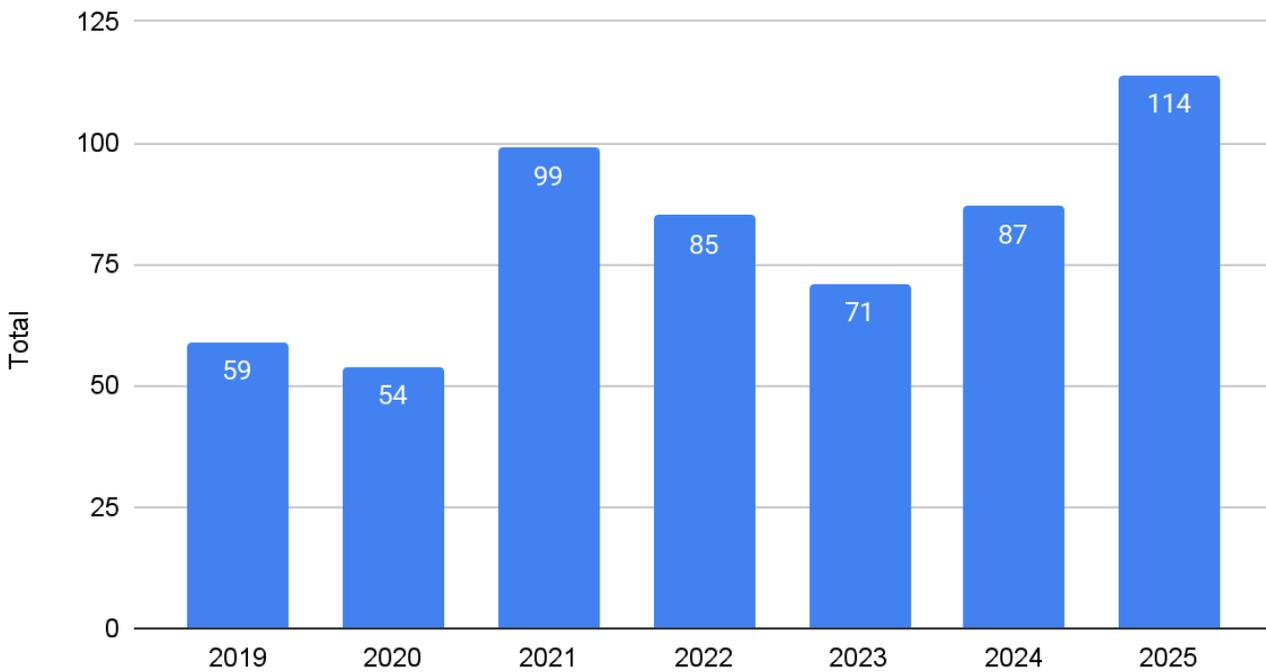
114 Total Volunteers

31% increase from 2024

2929.8 Hours Contributed

Equivalent to \$101, 927.74 in contributed value* or nearly 73.25 weeks of full-time work, or 1.4 full-time staff positions.

Total Number of Volunteers per Year

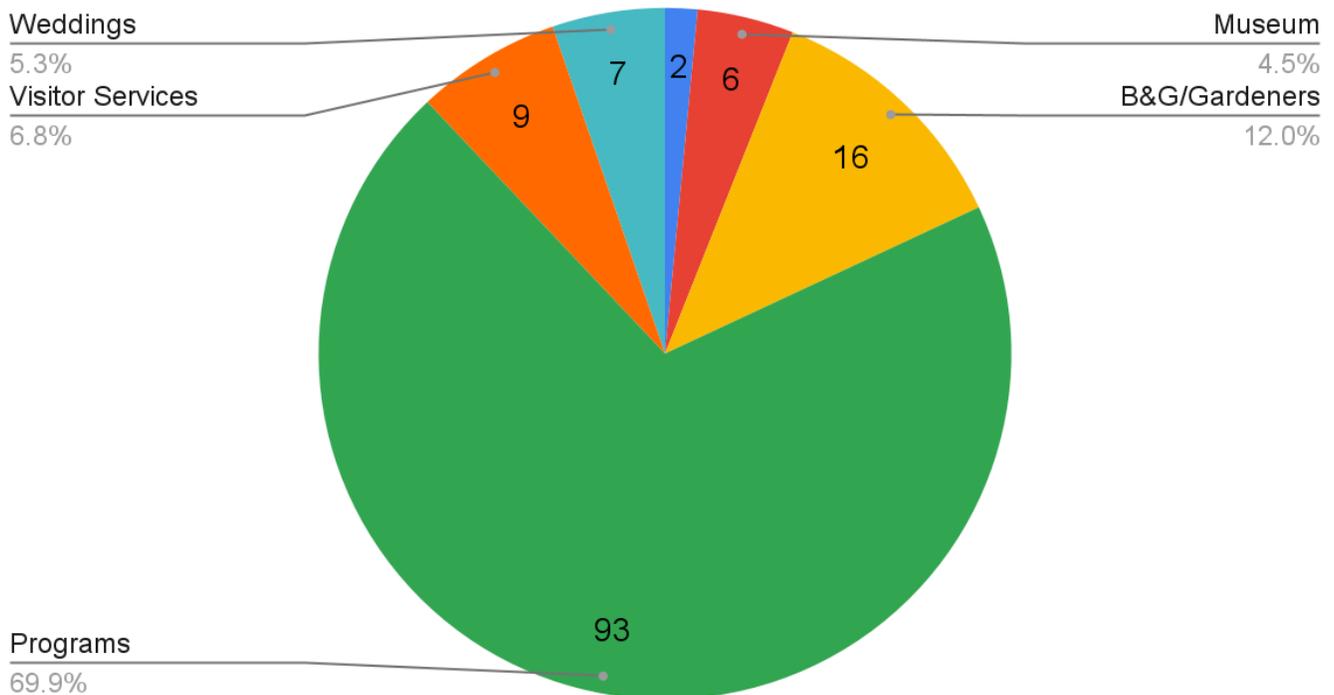


* Independent Sector. 2025. *Value of Volunteer Time 2025 Report*. Washington, DC: Independent Sector. April 23, 2025. National volunteer hour value: \$34.79 (2024)

Yearly Comparison: Total Number of Volunteers per Department

No. of Vols/Dept.	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Office/Admin	11	5	6	3	2	2	2
Museum	12	10	10	16	12	12	6
B&G/Gardeners	24	15	37	35	25	25	16
Programs	4	6	27	22	34	42	93
Visitor Services	8	15	14	6	4	4	9
Weddings	0	3	5	3	2	2	7

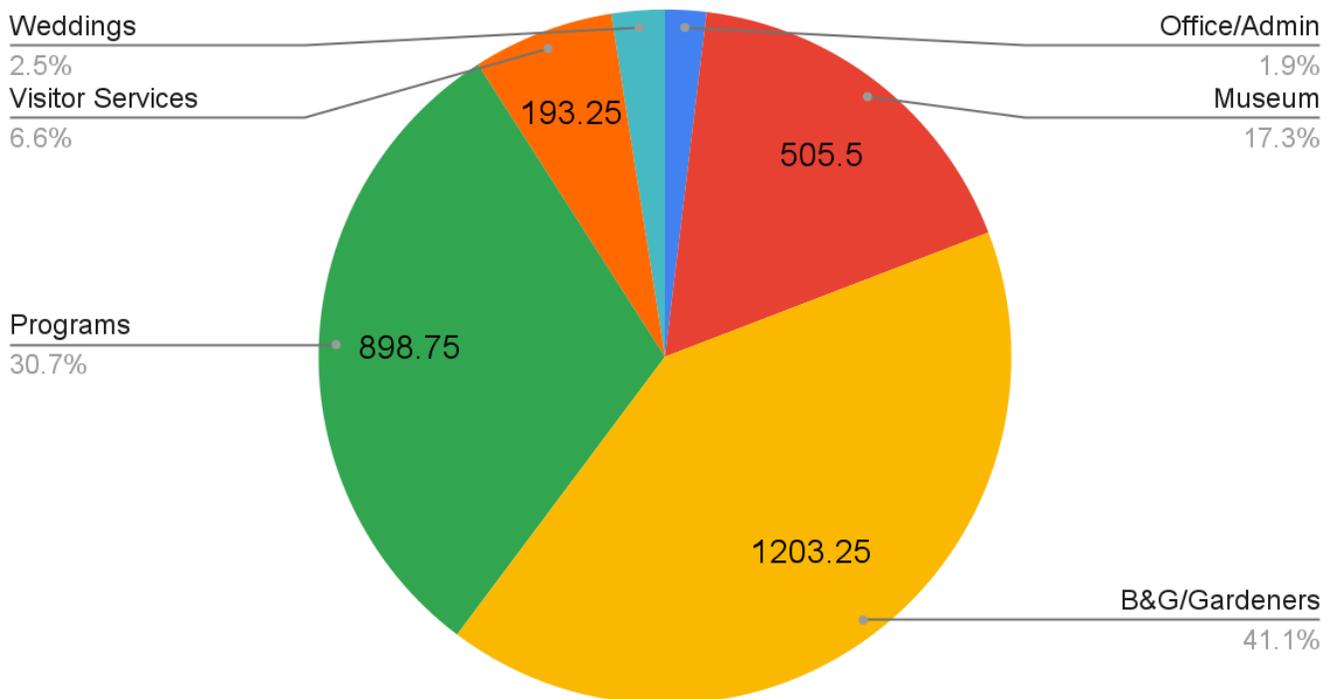
2025 Volunteers per Department



Yearly Comparison: Total Number of Volunteer Hours per Department

Volunteer Hours/Dept.	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Office/Admin	117	308.5	54.25	64.75	60.7	55.15	56.3
Museum	1034	498.75	813.5	631.75	570.5	572.75	505.5
B&G/Gardeners	385	364.75	588.65	673.25	639.0	712.45	1203.25
Programs	28.5	154	477.95	642.75	742.5	844	898.75
Visitor Services	342	314	432.25	265	285.0	412.25	193.25
Weddings	0	16	43	46.45	70	71	72.75
Total	2012.5	1656	2409.6	2323.95	2367.7	2667.6	2929.8

2025 Volunteer Hours per Department



Yearly Comparison: Individual Volunteer Hours per Year

Volunteers Per Hours Logged	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2-10 hours	30	23	53	41	34	40	71
10-50 hours	17	21	27	25	21	26	19
50-100 hours	6	6	15	14	11	16	17
> 100 hours	6	4	4	5	5	5	7
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS	59	54	99	85	71	87	114

Individual Volunteer Hours per Year

