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The Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders

2025 Annual Financial Report



www.fcsal.org

PO Box 2251
6533 Arlington Blvd Ste A
Falls Church, VA 22042

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALAMANDERS BOARD

Lauren Augustine
Julia Geschke
Jasper Leavitt
Brenda Cervantes
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FCSal President, Lauren Augustine

This year FCSal focused on fundraising and educational outreach efforts. Salamander Saturday had 12 events nationwide and FCSal brought back the virtual Salamander Stroll as part of Salamander Saturday.

The t-shirt contest for the Stroll had 12 entries, and the winner was Samantha Toki with their “Run Like Hell” hellbender design.



The Salamander Stroll virtual 5k had 76 participants around the world and raised over \$1,800 USD.

FCSal also hosted a Salamander Saturday bocce tournament that raised over \$1,700 USD for our annual grant program. The event was family-friendly with make-your-own axolotls, a salamander coloring contest, and more!



Bocce for Salamanders Champs!

As an organization that started in 2011 under the umbrella of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), AAZK chapters have always been important contributors to our organization. This past year we are grateful for donations from the Greater Baltimore AAZK, Potawatomi AAZK, New York AAZK, El Paso Del Norte AAZK, and Lion Country Safari AAZK. We are also thankful for the support from the Elmwood Park Zoo AAZK and Greater Philadelphia AAZK chapters.



Bocce for Salamanders coloring contest

We are very proud to have funded over \$80,000 of salamander conservation and research initiatives since 2011. This year we funded two excellent proposals for a total of almost \$10,000!



FCSal merchandise

This would not be possible without your generosity, creativity, and dedication to preserving the world's salamanders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Lauren Augustine".

Lauren Augustine
President, FCSal

GRANTS

Past Grant Updates

Progress reports for past grant recipients can be found on the [Funded Projects](#) page of our website. We are thrilled to hear about their successes and are proud we had a part in advancing salamander conservation by providing them with funding.

New Grants

In 2025, we were able to award two grants through our annual grant program. Applications were accepted in the fall, and recipients were selected in December. We received a record number of grant applications this year (45) from 16 different countries, highlighting a global need for funding for salamander-focused work.

We awarded \$4,930 USD to Marisa Naia, PhD student at the University of Porto. This two-year project aims to integrate population assessments, landscape dynamics studies, science communication activities, and participatory planning with stakeholders for salamander conservation in the Mindelo Ornithological Reserve in Portugal. The reserve is considered a hotspot for amphibian diversity, including 3 Vulnerable salamander species - Fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*), Marbled newt (*Triturus marmoratus*), and Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*).



Study area, Mindelo Ornithological Reserve, Portugal

Assessing salamander populations and mapping habitat suitability using satellite imagery will create a baseline dataset to inform conservation strategies. This information will be publicly available through an interactive web-based tool that tracks habitat suitability trends over time, managed by local stakeholders. Science communication activities, including schools and guided night visits, will raise awareness about the importance of salamanders and aim to increase motivation towards conservation. Workshops with local stakeholders (landowners, non-profit organizations, visitors) will allow the delivery of scientific findings to the community, empower local actors, and work to co-design strategies to implement science-based conservation measures for salamanders in this region. By bridging the gap between ecological research and field implementation, this project aims to build conservation measures that will serve as a model for amphibian conservation in other landscapes under similar pressure.



Lissotriton helveticus

We also awarded \$5,000 USD to the Asociacion Pro Fauna Silvestre Ayacucho (project lead Vladimir Díaz Vargas). This project aims to study *Bolitoglossa digitigrada*, a salamander species endemic to Ayacucho, Peru. It is currently classified as Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List, and is extremely rare. It is known from only 10 specimens and was rediscovered in 2022 after 40 years without sightings. The populations inhabit the Non-Amazonian Forest ecosystem in Ayacucho, a habitat subjected to intense and rapid degradation driven primarily by agricultural expansion, which is responsible for 81% of the regional tree cover loss.



Habitat where *B. digitigrada* was found

This project is essential for urgently establishing the necessary biological basis for the conservation of *B. digitigrada*. The results obtained regarding its populations and threats will be crucial for its official reevaluation on the IUCN Red List, in addition to enabling the implementation of local and effective conservation plans that ensure its in-situ survival and the resilience of its ecosystem. Simultaneously, the project team will foster community ownership to guarantee active participation in its conservation. By building upon these initial results, they will be able to access future funding sources, thereby securing the medium- to long-term conservation of this currently little-known species, which is of vital importance for regional biodiversity.



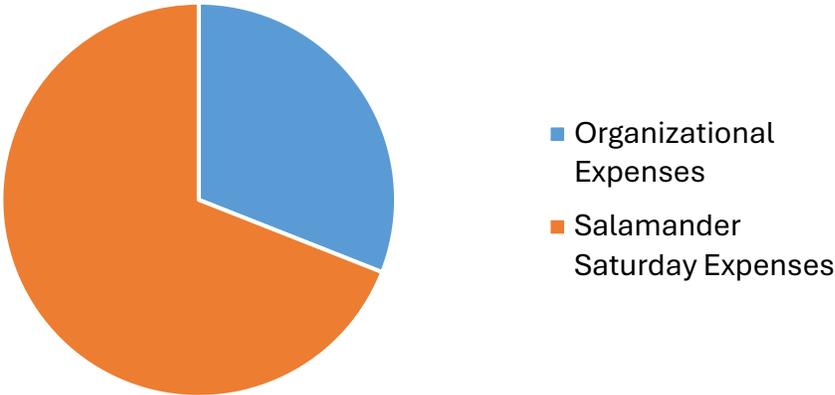
Bolitoglossa digitigrada

EXPENDITURES

Organizational Expenses (Taxes, P.O. Box, Website, etc.)	\$391.45
Salamander Saturday Expenses (Virtual 5k, Bocce)	\$871.83
TOTAL	\$1,263.28

Note: Money for the 2025 grant recipients was sent in January 2026, which will be counted in the 2026 financial report.

2025 Expenditures



REVENUE

Donations	\$1,761.95
Merchandise Sales	\$211.81
Salamander Saturday Fundraisers (Virtual 5k, Bocce)	\$3,564.32
TOTAL	\$5,538.08

2025 Revenue

