

# ROOKIE SLASH ACTIVITY REPORT

Year 2023



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its second year of existence, Rookie Slash has seen a huge improvement in both the quantity and quality of its program, while our core mission remains the same: to **promote the integration and well-being of Geneva's refugee community through outdoor and board sports.**

**We are proud to say that the number of activities has increased, with 96 sessions per year.** For the first time, we organized a 5-day winter camp, which strongly promoted the spirit of our sports among our regular participants. We also organized monthly sessions directly at the Bois-de-Baye refugee center for the youngest participants.

In total, we have 829 participations, with an average attendance of one session per week. One of our proudest achievements has been to welcome almost as many girls as boys in all of our sessions: **40% female participation on average!**

This year again, we carried out an impact study showing the positive impact of participants' involvement in our activities. Among other things, participants noted **an improvement in their French language skills, greater self-confidence, the promotion of regular physical activities and, above all, the promotion of a sense of belonging!**

While this is all very exciting, there is always room for improvement. We could, for example, emphasize the social mix of our sessions while improving our approach to recruitment and pedagogy to ensure that our program stays as inclusive as possible. Renewing our participants, while offering new opportunities to older Rookies are also new challenges that we are determined to overcome in the coming year.

Overall, 2023 has been a great year, and it would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of our team of coaches and partners. We feel very lucky to be so well surrounded.

We can't wait to shred the coming year!

The Rookie Slash team







## COMMITTEE



Nathanël Aidlin  
President



Bastien Kubel Wilsdorf  
Vice-President

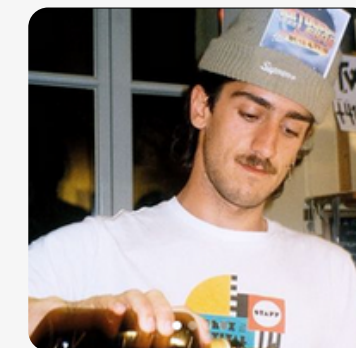


Ramzy Chahboun  
Treasurer

## COACHES



Simon Perrotet  
Skateboard



Oscar Krakovtich  
Skateboard & Snowboard



Vincent Meynard  
Skateboard

## ORGANISATIONAL TEAM



Nytaï Aidlin  
Program Director  
& Development



Mat Jung  
Manager  
Skateboard



Diogo Oliveira Cardoso  
Manager  
Monthly Outreach



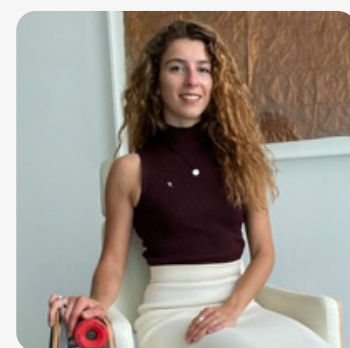
Jigdral Drakmargyapon  
Skateboard



Jonathan Rouselle  
Climbing & WaterDiving



Gaël Kaufmann  
Ski & Snowboard



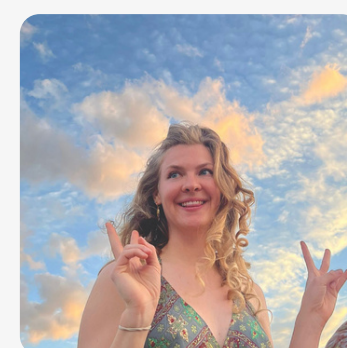
Eugénie Mathieu-Chartier  
Social Impact Officer



Patrick Jourdain  
Financial Strategy  
Consultant



Camille André  
Communication Officer



Lara Pajic  
Ski



Solenne Roger  
Skateboard & Snowboard

and more...  
check our website!  
[Rookieslash.org](https://Rookieslash.org)



# BACKGROUND & CONTEXT



In 2023, Switzerland witnessed a notable increase in asylum seekers, with 30,223 individuals seeking refuge, up by 5,712 from the previous year. Additionally, there were 18,375 applications for S status submitted. Looking ahead, SEM expects around 30,000 asylum applications in 2024. which means that **the number of asylum applications should continue to rise.**

Over the past 3 years, there has been a significant rise in unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (RMNA), particularly in Geneva. As of November 2022, RMNA accounted for about 10% of asylum applications: **2,181 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum**

Beyond statistics and figures, it involves real people, **including children.** The process of integrating refugees into Swiss society presents significant challenges, especially in Geneva. Alongside practical and administrative hurdles, extreme cases of mental distress have emerged among this vulnerable population, some of whom have no support network. **In 2023 alone, Geneva's refugee community reported two suicides.**

**We need to rethink how we welcome these flows of newcomers to our region, inclusively and positively.**

**As a community-focused organization, Rookie Slash is committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by refugees in Geneva.**

Through mentorship programs and sports activities, we aim to cultivate a sense of belonging and empowerment, introducing our participants to positive and inclusive sporting communities.

**By participating in our activities, the Rookies can connect with others, build their social network, find a sport, and overcome mental distress.**



<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/sem/medien/mm.msg-id-100040.html>

<https://asile.ch/2023/04/04/un-accueil-indigne-a-geneve/>

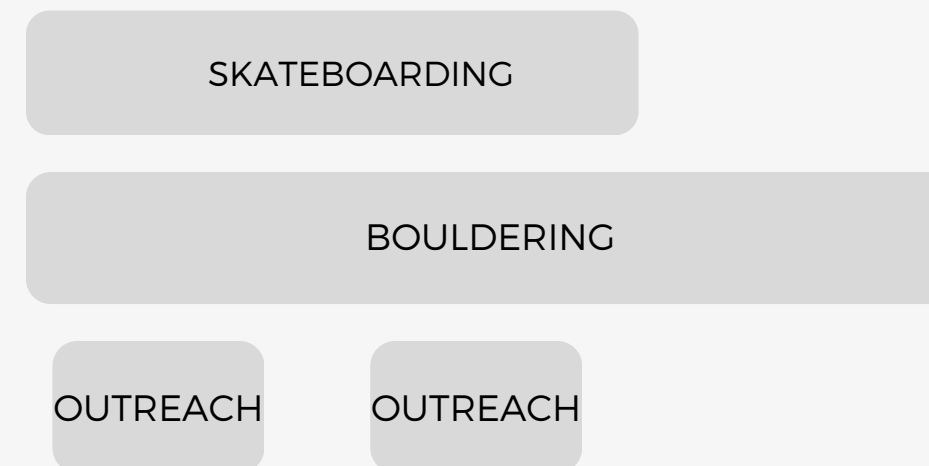
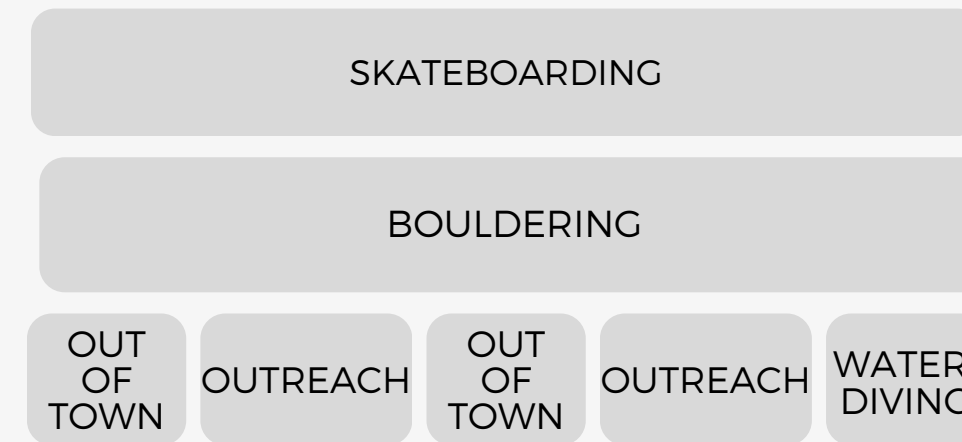
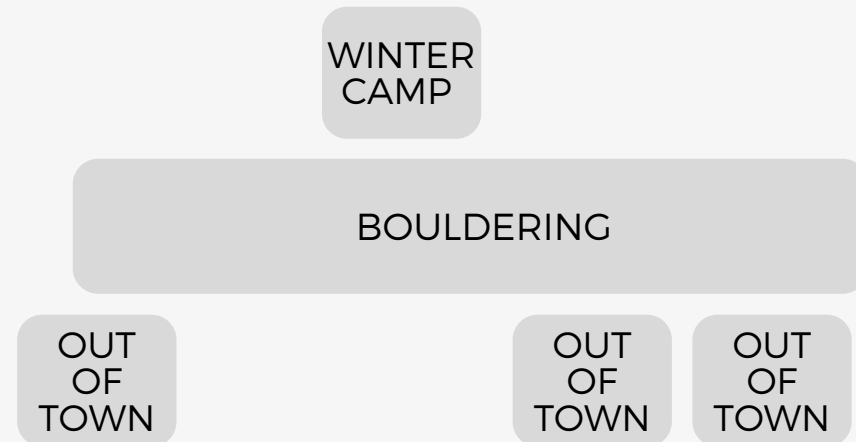
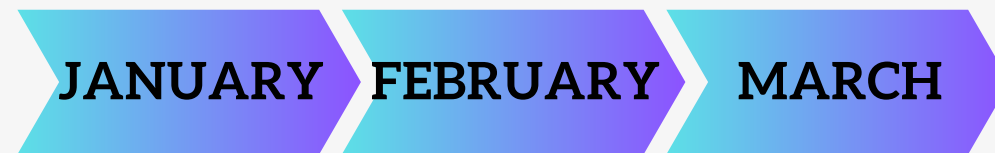
<https://asile.ch/2014/09/26/geneve-premiers-pas-vers-une-meilleure-prise-en-charge/>



# ACTIVITIES - AGENDA 2023



## SEASONAL ROOKIE SLASH PROGRAM THROUGHOUT 2023!







## WINTER CAMP

SKI & SNOWBOARD LESSONS  
FEBRUARY



- 5-day mountain camp with daily ski and snowboard classes for all levels
- 19 participants aged 12 to 18
- 5 ski/snowboard coaches
- 3 social educators in partnership with Hospice Général



## SKATEBOARDING

CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED  
APRIL-JUNE / SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

- 2 weekly classes
- Between 6 and 15 participants per class
- Supervised by 2 or 3 coaches, depending on enrolment
- Mixed activities with local youth in collaboration with GVASK8.







## BOULDERING

CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED  
MARCH-JUNE / SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

- Weekly classes for all levels
- Between 5 and 10 participants per week
- Supervised by 2 climbing coaches
- In collaboration with the ClimbAid association



## OUT-OF-TOWN SESSION

CLIMBING & SKATEBOARDING  
SPONTANEOUS ALL YEAR ROUND

- 7 one-day outings throughout the year
- Destinations throughout Switzerland (Lausanne, Bulle, Martigny...)
- Between 10 and 15 participants per outing
- Supervised by 3 skate / climbing coaches







## SWIMMING LESSONS & DIVING

PAQUIS BATHING SESSIONS  
JULY – AUGUST

- 5 excursions throughout the summer
- Between 5 and 10 participants per session
- 2 swimming coaches
- Swimming lessons and introduction to freestyle diving
- Introducing Bain Des Paquis to participant, one of Geneva's most socially mixed areas



## ON-SITE AT BOIS-DE-BAYE

MONTHLY ON-SITE SESSION  
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER – NOVEMBER



- 3 on-site outreach sessions throughout the year in the group accommodation of Bois-de-Baye
- Dedicated to the youngest participants, from the age of 6.
- Between 15 and 40 participants per outreach
- Supervised by 4 skateboard coaches
- In collaboration with Hospice Général







## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP LAUSANNE SPECIAL EVENT SEPTEMBER

- Invitation to attend the skateboard world championship final, qualifying stage for Paris 2024 Olympic Games
- 10 participants
- In collaboration with Segment Festival



## MOVIE SCREENING – FIFDH SPECIAL EVENT JUIN

- On-site event at Bois-de-Baye
- Screening of Skateistan documentary “Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)”
- Introduction to skateboarding to 40 children
- 4 skateboard coaches and 2 Rookies coach-assistant
- In collaboration with FIFDH





# ACTIVITIES 2023 – TOTAL OUTINGS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023  
ROOKIE SLASH



**93**

**Total outings**

**48X SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS**

**27X BOULDERING SESSIONS**

**7X OUT-OF-TOWN SESSIONS**

**5X SWIMMING LESSONS & DIVING**

**3X ON-SITE AT BOIS-DE-BAYE**

**1X 5-DAYS WINTER CAMP**

**1X VISIT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

**1X MOVIE SCREENING – FIFDH**

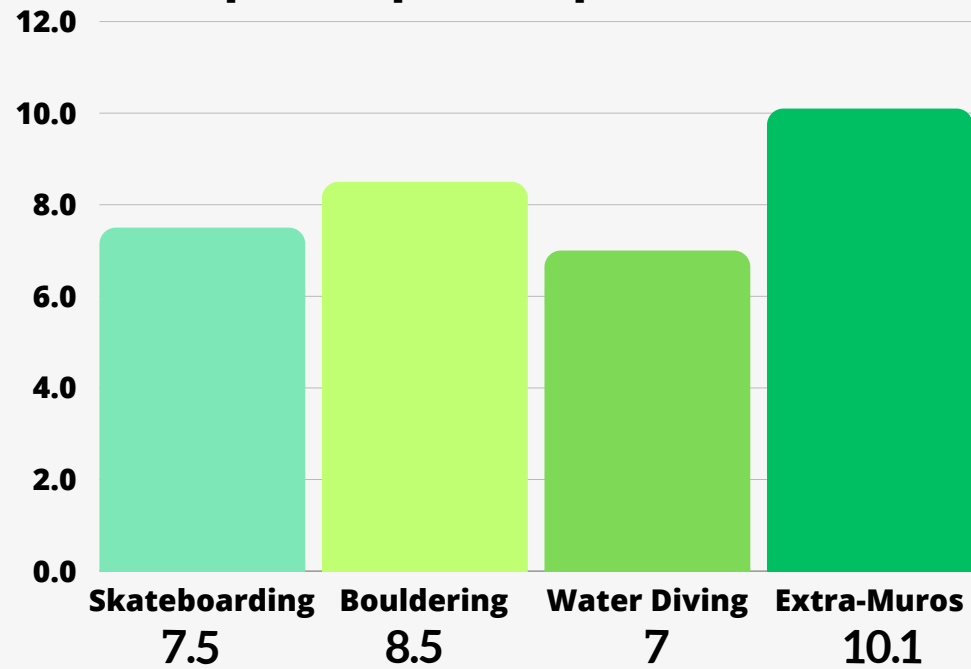




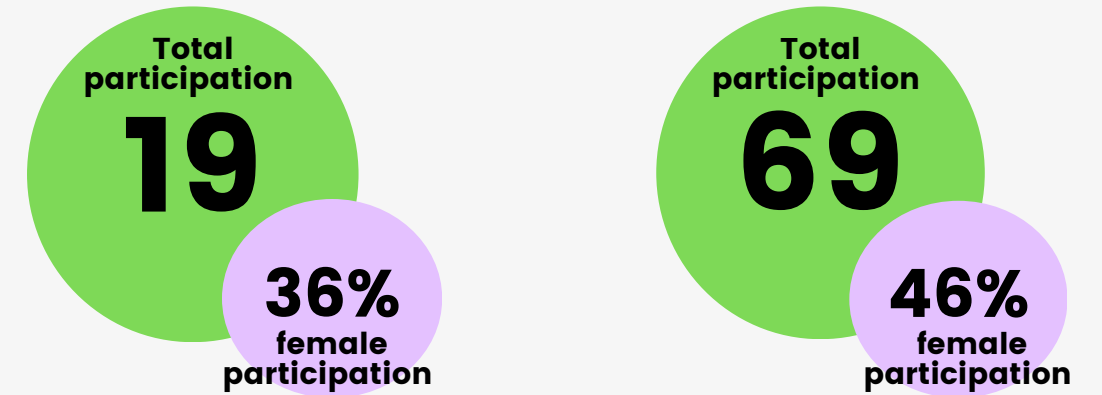
# ACTIVITIES 2023 – PARTICIPATION



Median participation per activities



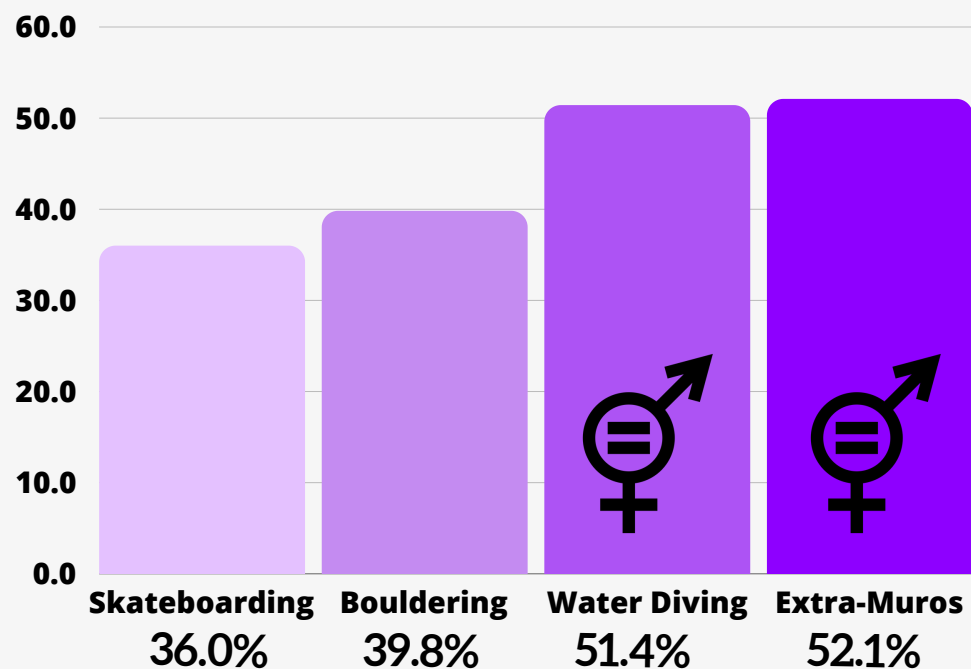
5-days Winter Camp On-Site at Bois-de-Baye



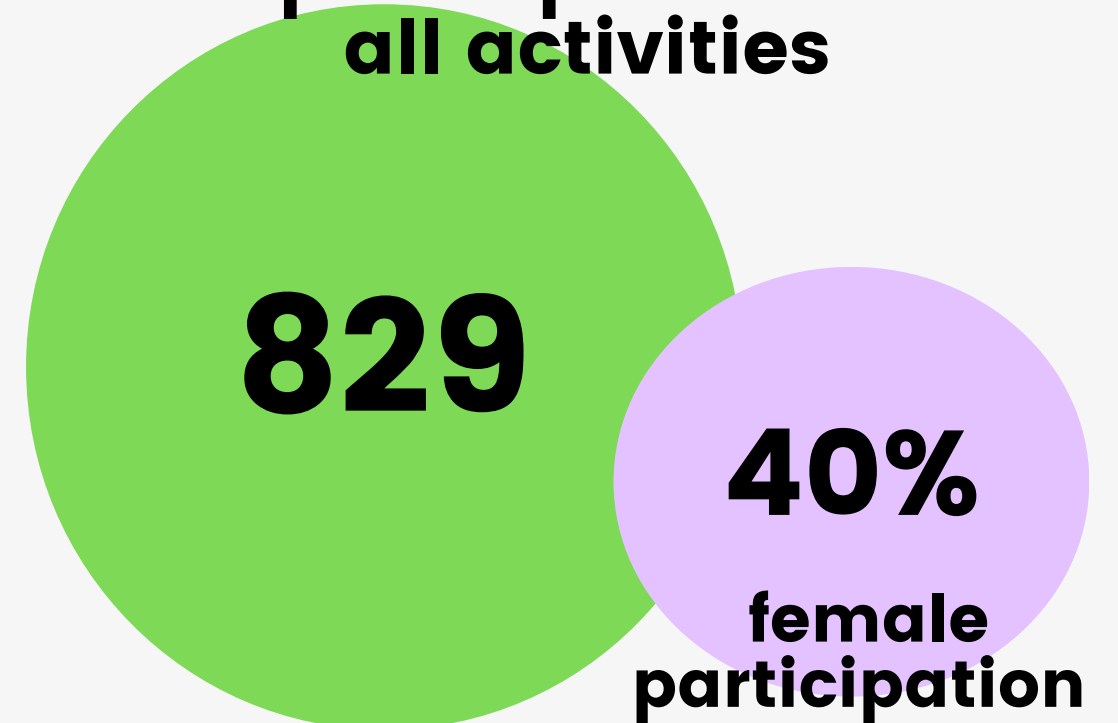
median participation frequency

**1 time per week**

Percentage of female participation



Total participation in 2023 all activities



Rookie Slash tracks the attendance of each of its activities. This is a coaches' task, which are responsible for the recording before their course. Thus, the present numbers coming from this attendance register are an objective and non-biased source of information for the Association and the reader.



# IMPACT & OUTCOME

Each year, Rookie Slash tracks the impact of its activities on participants to assess the effectiveness of its program in fostering confidence and inclusion. This year, the questionnaire was offered online to participants, and 20 surveys were anonymously filled out. The figures below are based on the collected surveys.

## Socio-demographics

| Key Indicator | Results 2023    | 2022 |
|---------------|-----------------|------|
| <b>Gender</b> | 14 males (70%)  | 80%  |
|               | 6 females (30%) | 20%  |

**Comment:** The female proportion has increased from 20% in 2022 to 30%.

| Age | Results 2023 | 2022 |
|-----|--------------|------|
|     | Mean : 16    | 15   |
|     | Youngest: 14 | 11   |
|     | Oldest: 19   | 18   |

**Comment:** The core Rookie group aged, the mean age increased by 1 year.

| Nationality | Results 2023    | 2022            |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|             | 30% Ukraine     | 33% Afghanistan |
|             | 25% Afghanistan | 20% Erythrea    |
|             | 15% Eritrea     | 20% Ukraine     |
|             | 10% Türkiye     | 20% Syria       |
|             | 20% Others      | 7% Ethiopia     |

**Comment:** The number of Ukrainian participants increased notably due to the growing number of asylum seekers from this country.

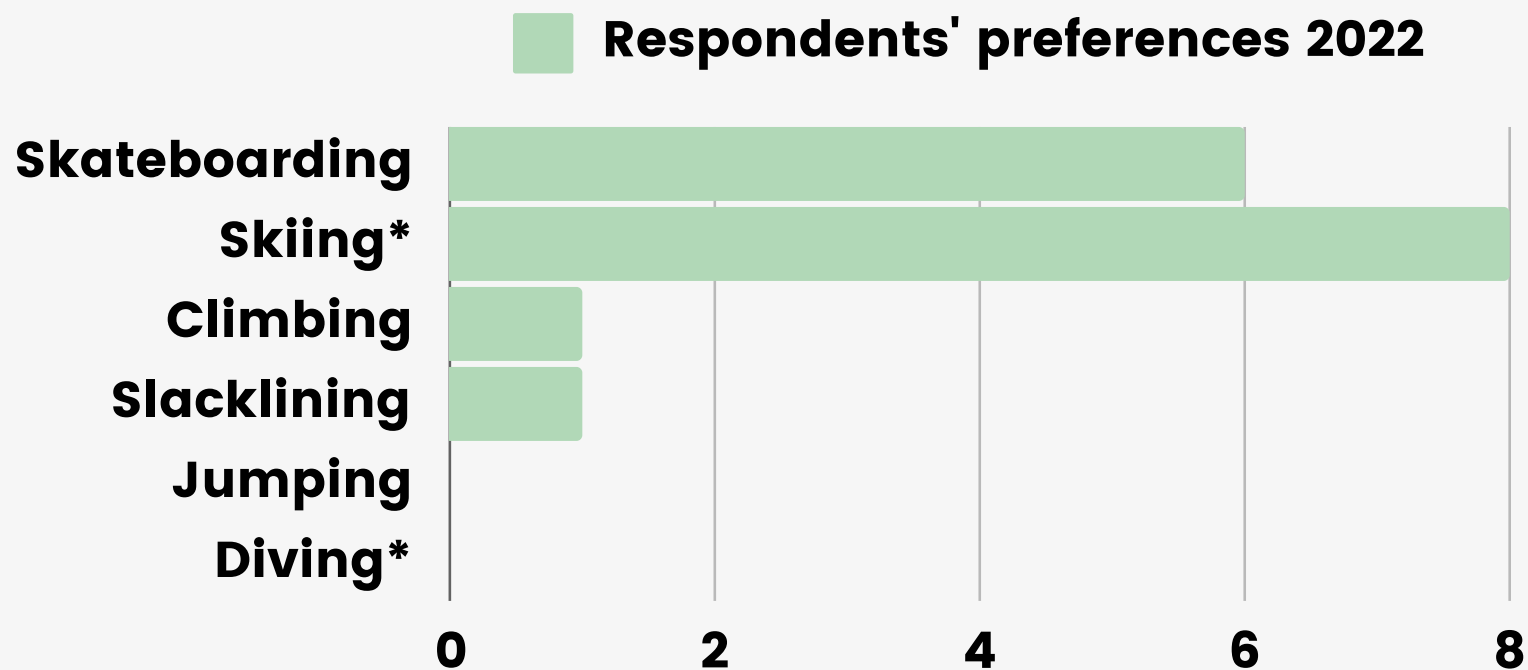
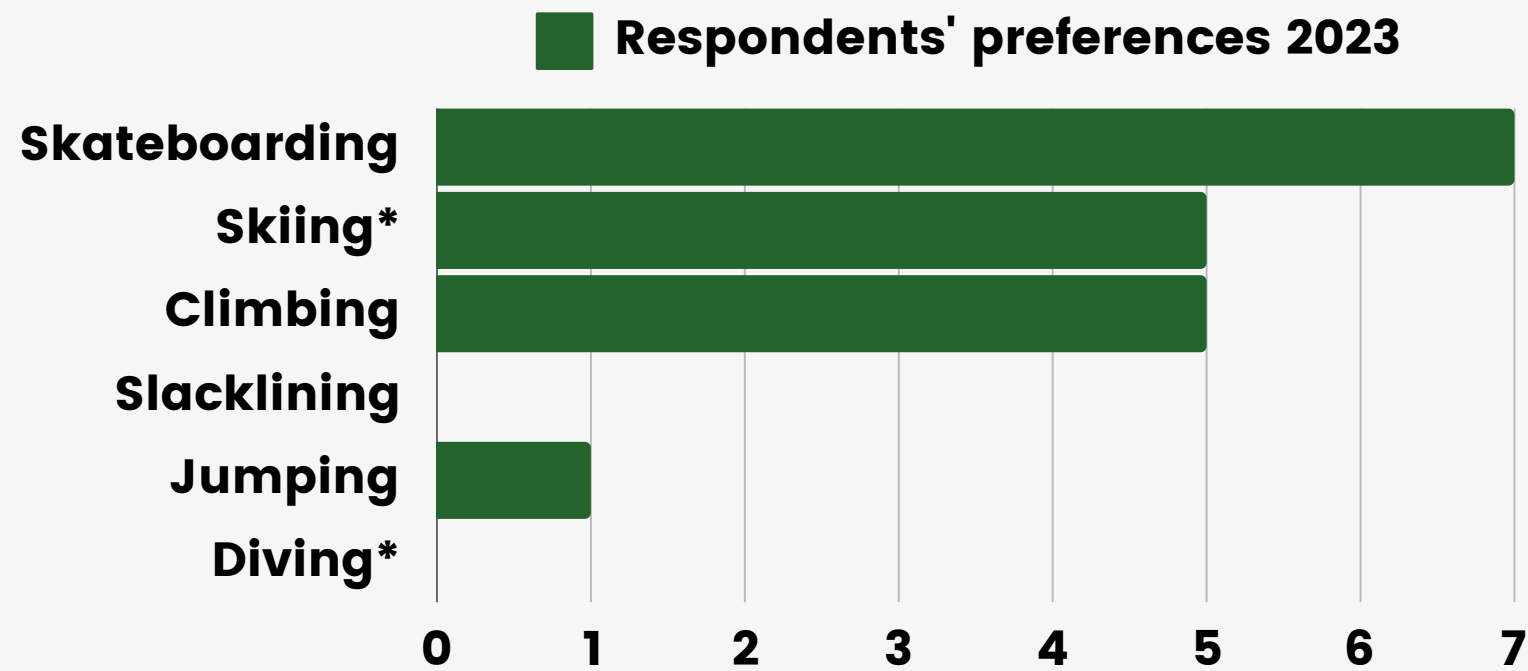




# IMPACT & OUTCOME



## Preferences



"I love every sport offered by Rookie Slash because we can learn a lot of new stuff."



## Comments

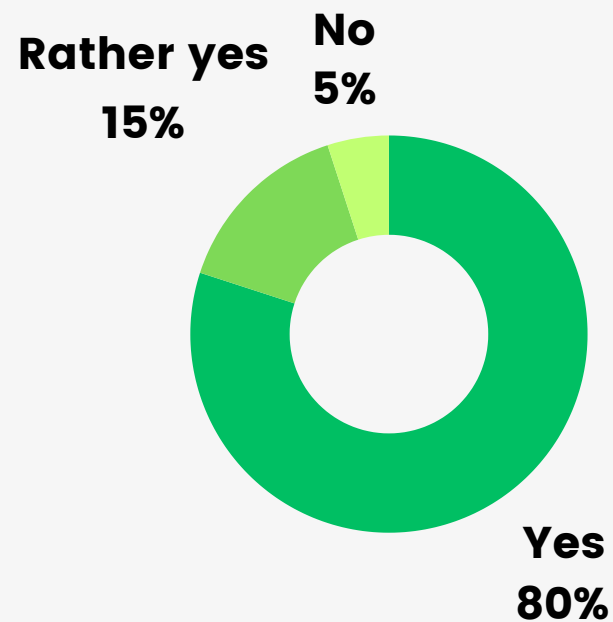
From 2022 to 2023, there has been a noticeable increase in preference for climbing and skiing, while skateboarding becomes the most popular sport overall. This data encourages us to continue our efforts in these three sports, while prompting us to reevaluate the appeal of water diving and slacklining, both of which are weather-dependent seasonal activities.





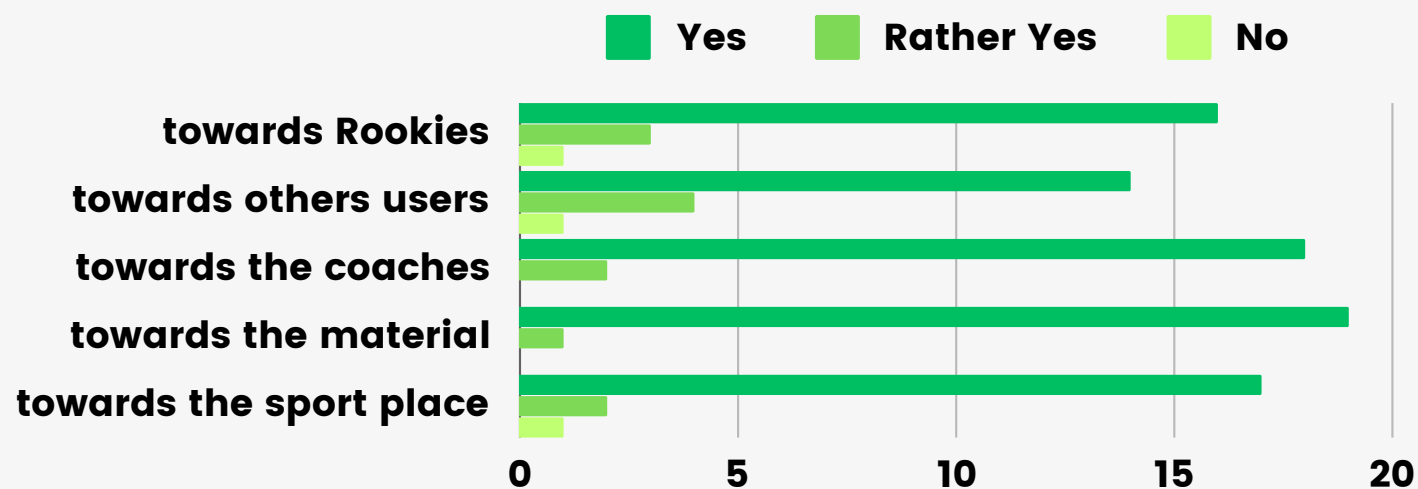
## Trust & Confidence

- Has your participation at Rookie Slash reinforced your self-confidence?



**“Rookies motivate each other, that's pretty cool, and we can count on our coaches”**

- Evaluation of the trust of the respondents towards



## Comments

The trust and confidence metric evaluates participant comfort within our program. Although most responses are positive, there's a slight dip in trust toward other users, meaning outsiders of the Rookie Slash Program. We aim to address this through more mixed activities. Additionally, one negative response raises concerns about leaving a participant behind. Inclusion training should be reinforced in 2024. Overall, we are pleased to see that participants exhibit strong trust in our team members and that our our activities are boosting their self-confidence.

**“I try all kinds of things, and to get there, you fall. But then you get up and go for it.”**

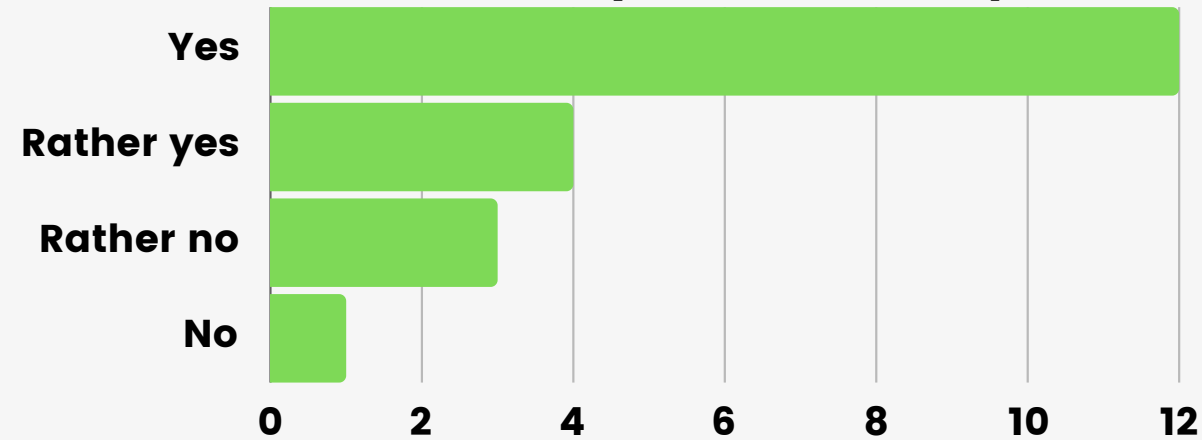




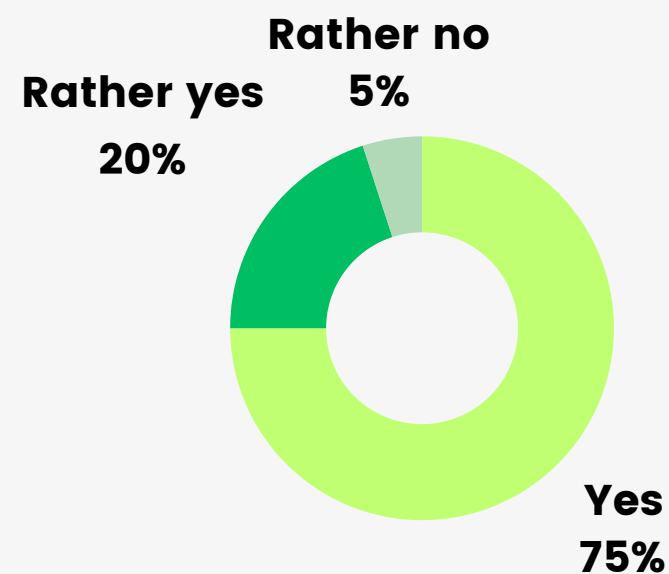


## Integration & Friendship

### ● Rookie Slash as catalyst of friendship



### ● Rookie Slash helping for improving French



**"I've been with Rookie Slash for almost 2 years, I feel like part of a big family."**



**"Almost everyone speaks with me in French and I like it."**

## Comments

This metric assesses Rookie Slash's program effectiveness in supporting participant integration. Data shows that we have created an inclusive space where they feel a strong sense of belonging. Additionally, 60% noted our sessions helped them connect with new people, and many find it valuable for improving French skills.

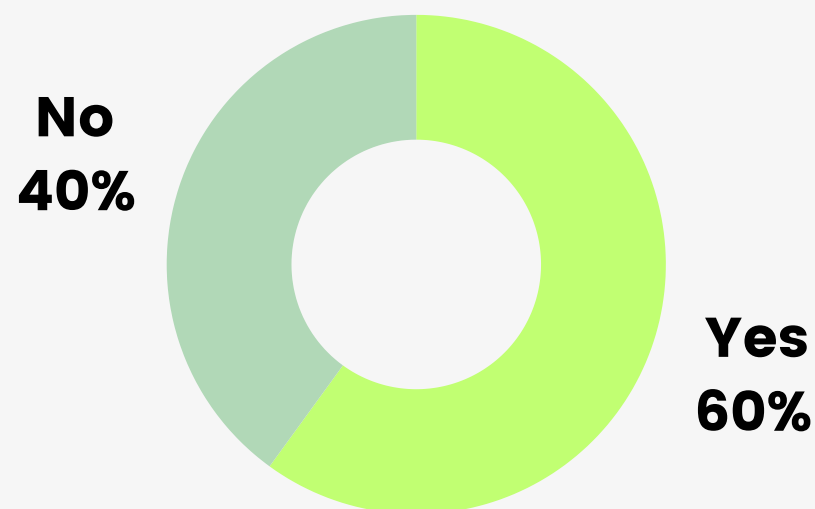




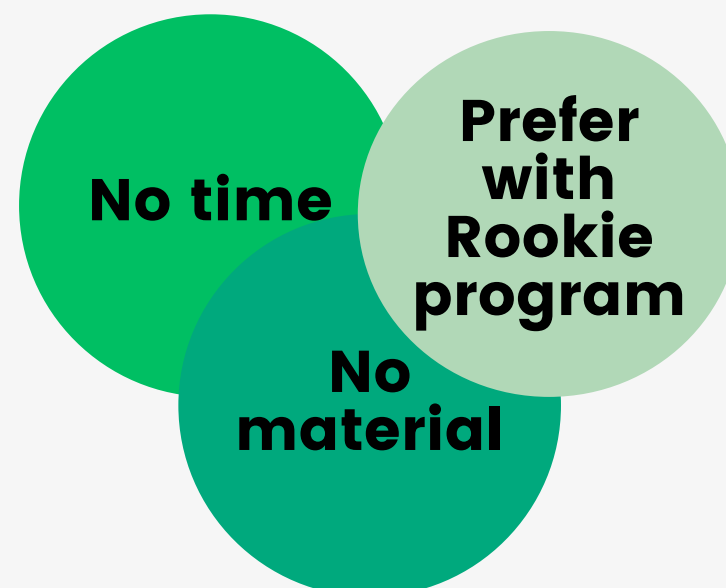
## Autonomy in practice

**"Rookie Slash allows me to improve, learn new things and see new people and friends."**

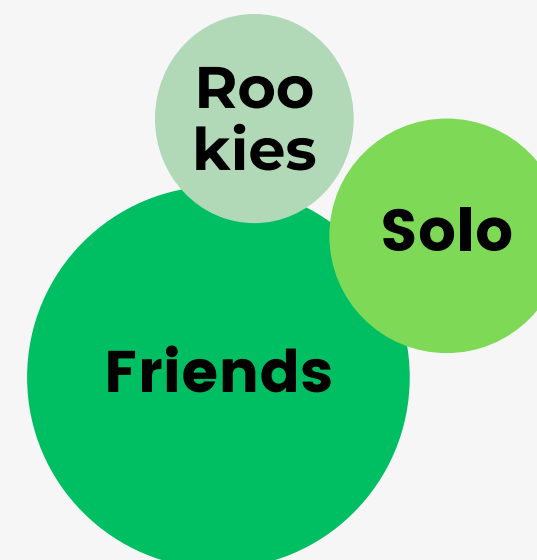
● Do you practice Rookie's sport beyond the classes ?



● Why don't you practice outside Rookie Slash classes?



● With who do you practice the sport beside the Rookie session ?



## Comments

This metric evaluates participants' engagement with sports beyond our program. High engagement signals a commitment to the sports community. While 60% practice outside, mainly with friends or other Rookies, 40% do not. Efforts are needed to promote the availability of free equipment, like skateboards at Plainpalais. Increasing mixed sessions with other sports clubs could foster interaction and offer alternatives to solo practice for those who prefer company.





## Conclusion

Rookie Slash's program promotes belonging and inclusion, fostering positive social connections among participants. The weekly sessions encourage openness and facilitate new friendships within the community. Many participants find the association valuable for improving their French skills. Additionally, the program boosts self-confidence, evident through active engagement in various activities.

### To improve:

- Develop tailor-made programs for older participants to ensure follow-up, adapted activities, and an opportunity to strengthen young people's leadership.
- Encourage engagement in sports outside of the program by promoting free equipment availability.
- Increase mixed sessions with other skate clubs to address concerns about trust among users and potential participants while expanding social networks and interaction opportunities.

## Wall of testimonies

**"It's a great way to make friends."**

**"I really love this team, I love to spend my time with Rookie Slash. They are like my second small family. I love to learn from them."**

**"I love the way you treat the students and teach them how to do things."**

**"I didn't know how to skateboard at all but by the end of the course I knew how to manage it, thank you very much!"**

**"I am surrounded by people who motivate me to achieve my goals."**

**"Going out lets you get to know places and other things, for example, learning to get along with other people."**



# BEYOND THE PROGRAM



## 1% FOR THE PLANET



The 1% for the Planet initiative is a global movement where companies pledge to donate at least 1% of their annual sales to environmental causes. Being included in this network has been immensely beneficial for Rookie Slash, as it has provided us with **access to funding and resources that support our mission**. Additionally, being part of this network has connected us with like-minded organizations and individuals, fostering collaboration and amplifying our impact.

## RISE CERTIFICATE



Rise Sport is a quality label that recognizes organizations operating in the Sport for Good sector. Supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, Rise Sport assists organizations in assessing their needs and provides resources to meet them, all while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a member of the 2023 Rise Beta program, Rookie Slash participated in the online program alongside other Sport for Good organizations and received **the Bronze Quality Label certificate for our organizational efforts**.

## GENÈVE MONTAGNE



Genève Montagne is an umbrella association and a sports, cultural, and social center dedicated to the mountains in Geneva. Genève Montagne facilitates collaboration among member organizations, fostering joint projects and promoting cooperation. As part of this network, we gain opportunities **to connect with other entities, share resources, and engage with regional authorities**. By aligning with Genève Montagne, Rookie Slash enhances its efforts in promoting inclusion through outdoor sports.

## GOODPUSH



GoodPush is a program initiated by Skateistan, a global non-profit organization utilizing skateboarding and education to empower youth. It serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices among skateboarding projects worldwide. By being part of the GoodPush network, Rookie Slash gains **access to valuable training, resources, and networking opportunities**. This enables us to enhance our skateboarding programs, improve our impact, and connect with other like-minded organizations.

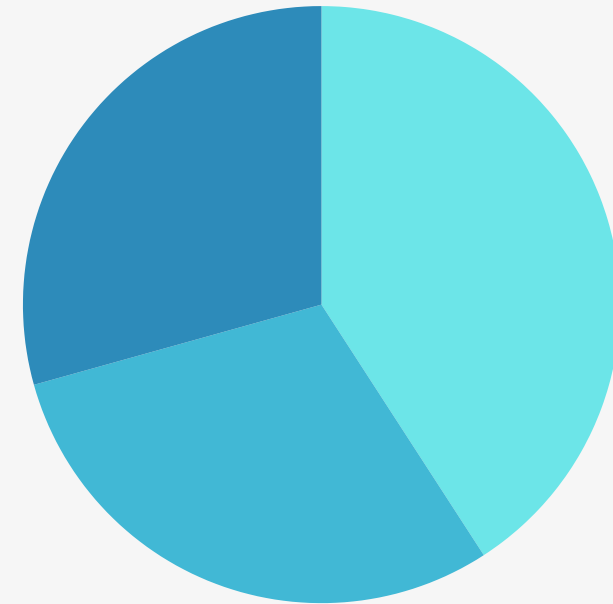




## Source of Fundings dedicated for 2023

Total: 73'440

**Private Funders**  
**29.3%**



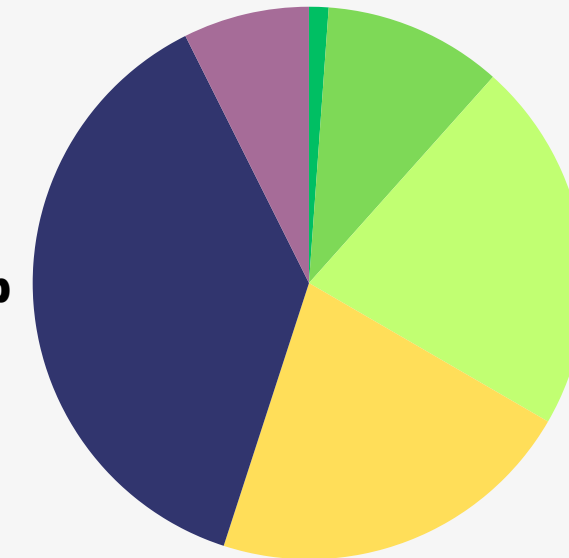
**Foundations**  
**40.8%**

**Public Grants**  
**29.8%**

## Source of Expenses during 2023

Total: 52'620

**Operational Expenses**  
**10.5%**



**Administration Salary**  
**21.8%**

**Winter Camp**  
**37.6%**

**Coaches Salary**  
**21.6%**





# Partners – Donors



We are fortunate to have the support of generous donors from both the private and public sectors.

**RE Capital** has been with us from our very beginnings, and we are glad to have them continue their support in 2023. Their ongoing commitment is a testament to the positive impact we strive to achieve.

Being part of the 1% for the Planet network is an amazing privilege, and it is through this network that **Nidecker Snowboard** has chosen to support us. Their contribution means a lot to us, especially coming from a Swiss snowboard brand, as it reflects the strong sense of community and belonging that surrounds our mission.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Fond du Sport**, the **City of Geneva**, and the **Canton of Geneva** for not only recognizing our work but also for their invaluable support. Their partnership empowers us to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of young refugee and migrants and promoting social cohesion in our community.



London | Lisbon | Geneva



**NIDECKER**  
S N O W B O A R D S



REPUBLIQUE  
ET CANTON  
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX



Swiss  
Foundation  
wishing  
to remain  
anonymous



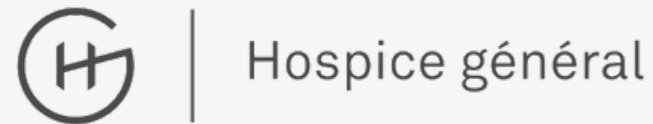
VILLE DE  
GENÈVE

**FONDS DU SPORT**





# Partners – Sport & Social



As part of our ongoing integration efforts, Rookie Slash encourages collaboration with local communities. These partnerships contribute not only to the success of our project, but also to the integration of our participants into the local social fabric.

Our warmest thanks go to the local skateboarding community. **GVASK8**, the Geneva skateboard association, is sharing facilities with us and inviting its participants to join us at certain events. Their support has been invaluable in helping us connect with the local skate scene.

We would also like to thank **TranZport Skate & SnowShop**, our trusted local skate shop, for their unwavering support. Best boards that keep Rookies rolling!

**ClimbAID** and its dedicated coaches have been instrumental in organizing climbing activities for our participants. We would like to thank **Planet Climbing** for providing a welcoming space for these activities.

The **Hospice Général** has been a valuable partner, facilitating collaboration and access to its reception center, as well as providing expertise in social matters. We are particularly grateful to them for sending three social educators to help us with our winter camp

We would also like to thank **ALSF** and **Genève SnowSport** for inspiring our association, and **Virage Sport** for following in Nidecker's footsteps by providing essential support in terms of winter equipment.





# CHALLENGES

1. **The Plainpalais skatepark** is a vital resource for our organization, offering convenient access to skateboarding in the heart of the city. **However, using this public space presents challenges:**

- Risk of unwanted interactions due to the open nature of the skatepark.
- The lack of a safe indoor space for participants.
- Limited access to hygienic toilet facilities
- Insufficient storage space shared with GVASK8, exacerbated by the growing popularity of skateboarding in the city.

2. **The absence of an indoor skatepark** poses significant difficulties:

- Cancellations are frequent on rainy days due to the lack of alternative venues.
- The La Praille skatepark offers a covered option, but its location under a highway exposes participants to pollution and noise.

3. **Our participant demographic is changing as our core group ages; in two years, they'll be over 18.**

Our programs originally focused on migrant youth aged 12 to 18, but we've extended outreach to younger kids through initiatives like those in Bois-de-Baye.

- Our challenge is to adapt by offering solutions for older participants to remain engaged
- while also welcoming new, younger members.

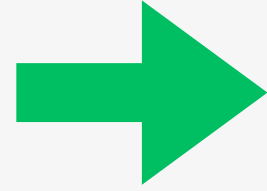




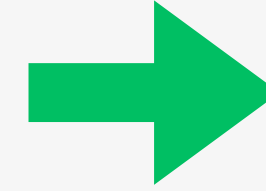
# FOLLOW-UP & NEXT STEPS



## NEXT STEPS 2023



## REFLECTION 2023



## NEXT STEPS 2024

### Program



Out of the 6 activities, we will focus on the most appreciated sports and further collaborate with local sport actors to offer opportunities for Rookies and locals to participate in activities together. This could include organizing mix sessions between Rookie Slash and local sport associations to actively encourage inclusion.

in 2023, we focused on four activities: Skateboarding, Water Diving, Bouldering & Ski/Snowboarding. We pursued our collaboration with local actors, notably GVASK8 and ClimbAID. Mixed sessions could be improved, but we have logistical and priority problems with other organizations.

In 2024, our program will feature: Two skate classes per week, catering to beginners and advanced riders, a weekly climbing class in partnership with ClimbAid, the return of our winter camp, welcoming up to 20 participants, spontaneous out-of-town sessions in Switzerland, monthly on-site sessions at Bois-de-baye. swimming lessons and diving during the summer. The emphasis will be on including new participants.

### Engagement



To encourage long-term participation, we will offer ways for our participants to take responsibility in our programs, such as proposing help-coach positions to our most dedicated participants.

We made a trial run by assigning responsibilities to 6 members over the different sports. However, our efforts to integrate the Rookies into their new roles and into the coaching team were undermined by a lack of a clear preparation program and clarity of roles with regard to the participants and coaches of the various sports.

A new program of youth leadership will be put in place, which focuses on only two or three Rookies., among the oldest and most dedicated participant  
The goal is to better accompanied the Rookies into the role of coach, respectively in climbing and skateboarding. Ultimately, we hope to welcome the participant of our Youth Leadership as coach next year.

### Funding



While we have primarily relied on one-time grants to fund our activities in our first year, we recognize the importance of establishing longer-term partnerships to sustain our work. We will strengthen our connections with current partners and look for new organizations interested in supporting our efforts: foster the inclusion of refugees in the Canton of Geneva through outdoor and board sports.

In 2023, we are thankful for the ongoing support from our long-time partners like ReCapital. We're also delighted to welcome Nidecker Snowboard Group as a new partner, who has provided both material and financial support for our mountain camp and has committed to supporting us in the coming years. Additionally, Nidecker Group introduced us to the 1% For The Planet network, which has already resulted in additional funding from corporate entities for 2024. We continue to receive support from authorities, notably through the Fond du Sport, while funding from foundations has increased in both diversity and amount.

The positive financial situation and maturity of our program inspire us to continue our fundraising strategy and maintain our current partnerships with different stakeholders. Additionally, we will allocate more funds towards logistical, coordination, and development roles. This strategy aims to sustain our activities while keeping the quality of the program and expanding access to new beneficiaries.





# CONTACT & DONATION INFO

## Contact us !

2 Allée Pic-Pic, 1203, Geneva, Switzerland.

+41 78 753 69 99

info@rookieslash.org

## Support us !

Name of the Bank : PostFinance

Name of the Account : Association Rookie Slash

IBAN : CH58 0900 0000 1588 6638 1

BIC: POFICHBEXXX

Adress: Allée Pic-Pic 2 – Genève 1203, Switzerland

## Follow us !

WEBSITE



## Photo Credits :

Snowboard: Ahriel Povich

Climbing: @Moonrise\_Geneva

Skateboarding: Anthony Gailleres

