



# ROOKIE SLASH ACTIVITY REPORT

Year 2024

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It's now been 3 years since Rookie Slash, based in Geneva, is empowering youth refugees through board and outdoor sports. We stay true to our mission: **help refugees, and migrants integrate into the local community through fun, empowering, and inclusive sports activities.**

In 2024, we organized **90 activity sessions**, including weekly sport classes, monthly on-site sessions at a local refugee camp, and out-of-town excursions. The year's highlights were our five-day camps during the winter (skiing/snowboarding) and summer (outdoor climbing and hiking). **810 attendances** were recorded across all activities, with about **30% female participation.**

We also expanded our **Youth Leadership Program**, training older participants to take on assistant coach roles. In 2024, **four youth from the refugee community served as "aid-coaches"** in skateboarding and climbing sessions, attending team meetings and helping lead activities.

**Our annual impact assessment** shows significant positive outcomes for participants. Our impact improved markedly, as 100% of surveyed youth reported that Rookie Slash **reinforced their self-confidence.** The program also fostered **social integration:** A large majority made new friends and felt more connected, while 89% of participants improved their **French language skills** through our sessions

In 2025, we plan to welcome more youth into leadership roles, promoting aid-coaches to full coach positions, introducing new program formats, and strengthening the structures that support our activities.

**Together, with our supporters, we continue to grow an inclusive community through sports, empowering young people !**







## ● COMMITTEE



Nathanël Aidlin  
President



Bastien Kubel Wilsdorf  
Vice-President

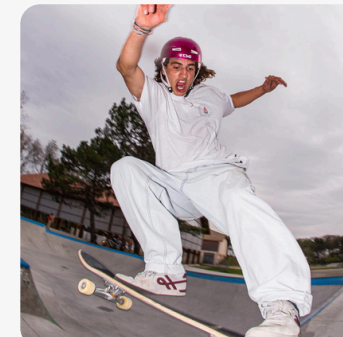


Ramzy Chahboun  
Treasurer

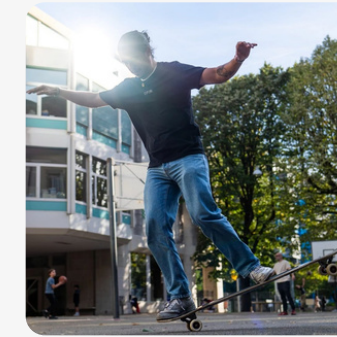
## ● ORGANISATIONAL TEAM



Nytaï Aidlin  
Program Director  
& Development



Mat Jung  
Manager  
Sport



Diogo Oliveira Cardoso  
Manager  
Monthly Outreach



Patrick Jourdain  
Financial Strategy  
Consultant

## ● SOME COACHES



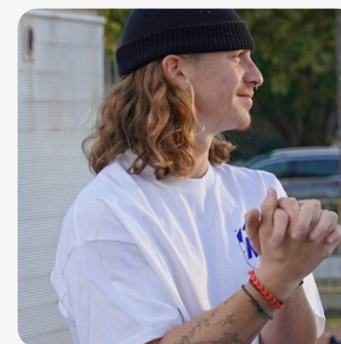
Zoé  
Ski



Jonathan Rouselle  
Climbing & WaterDiving

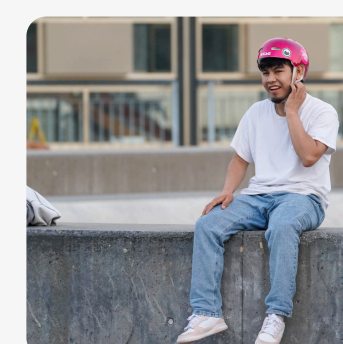


Sasha  
Ski



Olivier  
Skateboard

## ● AID-COACHES



Sefatullah  
Skateboard



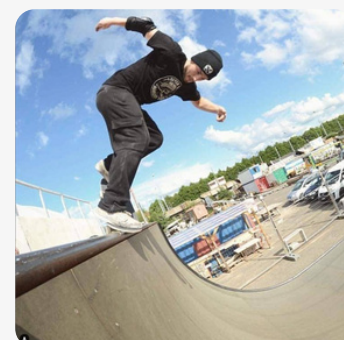
Matin  
Climbing & Skateboard



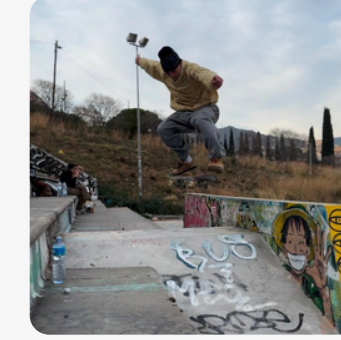
Simon Perrotet  
Skateboard



Oscar Krakover  
Skateboard & Snowboard



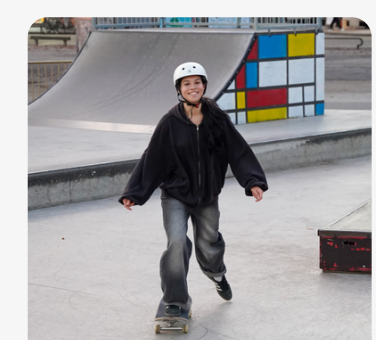
Vincent Meynard  
Skateboard



Aidan  
Skateboard



Katherina  
Climbing



Aminat  
Climbing





In 2023, Switzerland received 30,223 asylum applications, marking a 20% increase from the previous year. In 2024, the number of asylum applicants slightly decreased to 27,740, which is 8% less than in 2023. The most significant sources of these applicants were Afghanistan, Turkey, and Algeria. Additionally, over 23,000 Ukrainians were granted temporary protection status in Switzerland due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. (1)

Mental health remains a critical issue for UAMs, many of whom experience post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety. The lack of family support can lead to feelings of social isolation, making their integration more difficult (3;4).

In Geneva, the instability of their situation regularly leads young refugees to commit suicide, sounding the alarm about what should be done (7).

**For as long as necessary, for as long as we can, we will maintain and develop our programs so that every young person can feel at home in Switzerland.**

Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) remain a particularly vulnerable group among asylum seekers. Although the exact data for UAMs in 2024 is not available at the time of writing, 2023 saw an estimated 43,000 UAMs applying for asylum in EU+ countries, with 16% of these cases in Switzerland. (2) UAMs in Switzerland, typically boys aged 14-17, come primarily from Afghanistan, Syria, and other conflict-affected regions. The number of UAMs has raised significant concerns regarding housing, age assessments, and inconsistent care across different cantons in Switzerland. (1)

Academic research shows that sports, notably board and outdoor sport, play a key role in helping minority and newcomer youth integrate by fostering belonging, identity, and language skills (5; 6). For example, skateboarding is known to reduce stress and build resilience, particularly for youth navigating socio-economic or racial challenges (8).

Since 2022, Rookie Slash has provided free skateboarding, climbing, and outdoor courses that create inclusive spaces for refugee youth to connect, grow, and feel welcome.

1. State Secretariat for Migration SEM. (2024, June). Foreign population and asylum statistics 2023. Bern: SEM.

2. European Union Agency for Asylum. (2024, August). Data analysis of unaccompanied minors in 2023 (Fact Sheet No. 29).

3. Heeren, A., Mueller, L., Eppenberger, L., D'Acremont, M., & Droz, S. (2019). Characteristics of asylum-seeking and non-asylum-seeking patients in a paediatric hospital. *Swiss Medical Weekly*, 149, w20134.

4. Sierau, S., Göbel, U., von Wyl, A., Stotz, V., & Walitza, S. (2019). Unaccompanied refugee minors in transition to adulthood: Exploring their emotional health. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 64(3), 345–352.

5. Seiberth, K., Thiel, A., and Hanke, L. (2018). Flüchtlinge als neue Zielgruppe des organisierten Sports. Eine Pilot-Studie zur Entwicklung von Integrations- projekten für Geflüchtete in Sportvereinen. *Zeitschrift für Flüchtlingsforschung* 2, 262–291.

6. Chan, S. (1999). The role of sports on minority adolescents. Stanford University.

7. Corwin, Z. B. Maruco, T. Williams, N. Reichardt, R. Romero-Morales, M. Christine Rocha, C. and Astiazaran, C. (2019) *Beyond the Board: Findings from the Field*. Tony Hawk Foundation.

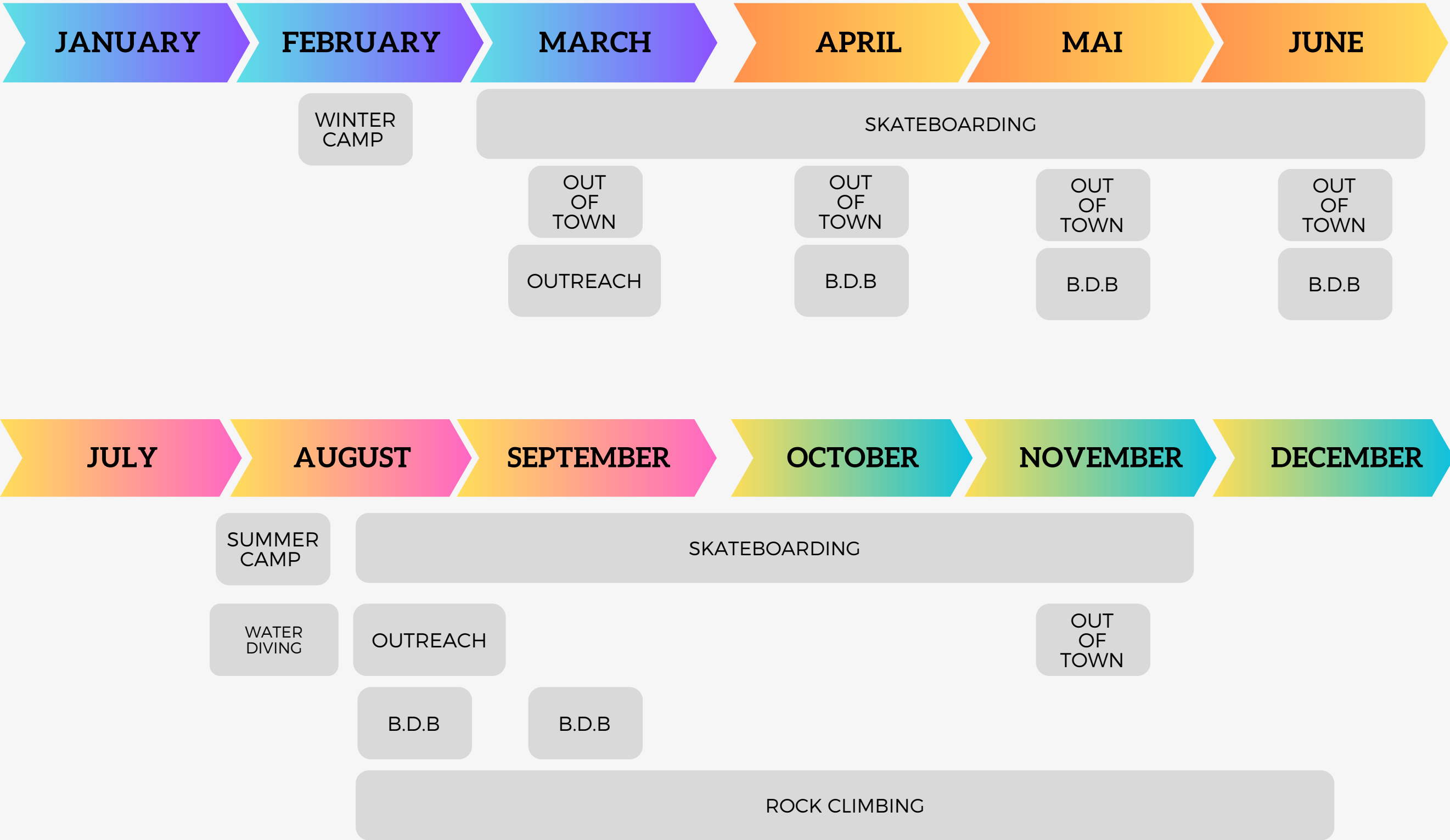
8. Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS). (2023, January 8). Après le suicide d'un deuxième requérant à Genève, les milieux de l'asile s'interrogent. RTS Info.



# ACTIVITIES – AGENDA 2024



## SEASONAL ROOKIE SLASH PROGRAM THROUGHOUT 2024!







## SKATEBOARDING

CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED  
WEEKLY, MARS-JUNE / SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

- 2 weekly classes at Skatepark of Plainpalais
- Between 6 and 15 participants per class
- Supervised by 2 - 3 skate coaches.
- Mixed activities with local youth in collaboration with GVASK8.



## OUT-OF-TOWN SESSION

CLIMBING & SKATEBOARDING  
MONTHLY, ALL YEAR ROUND

- One-day outings throughout Switzerland (Lausanne, Bulle, Martigny...)
- Between 10 and 15 participants per outing
- Supervised by 3- 4 skate/climbing coaches-







## SWIMMING LESSONS & DIVING

PAQUIS BATHING SESSIONS  
JULY – AUGUST

- Excursion with swimming and freestyle diving lessons
- Between 5 and 10 participants
- Supervised by 2 swimming coaches
- Introducing Bain Des Paquis to participants, one of Geneva's most socially mixed area



## ON-SITE AT BOIS-DE-BAY (B.D.B)

SESSION AT A REFUGEE CAMP  
MONTHLY, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- On-site sessions in the refuge camp of Bois-de-Bay
- Dedicated to the youngest participants, from the age of 6, between 15 and 40 participants
- Supervised by 4 skateboard coaches
- In collaboration with Hospice Général







## ROCK CLIMBING

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING  
WEEKLY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

NEW

- Weekly classes for all levels
- Between 6 and 12 participants per week
- 3 Youth Leadership participants
- In partnership with Association Pervenches



## REACH-OUT SESSIONS

SKATEBOARDING INITIATION WITH NEWCOMERS  
MARCH & AUGUST

- Invitation to new participants
- Between 8 and 20 participants per session
- 1-2 Youth Leadership participants
- In partnership with Hospice Général





# ACTIVITIES – DESCRIPTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
ROOKIE SLASH



## WINTER CAMP

SKI & SNOWBOARD LESSONS  
FEBRUARY

- 5-day mountain camp with daily ski and snowboard classes for all levels
- 20 participants aged 12 to 18
- Supervised by 3 J-S coaches
- Accompanied by 3 social educators in partnership with Hospice Général

## SUMMER CAMP

OUTDOOR ROCK CLIMBING  
JULY

NEW

- 5-day mountain camp with daily outdoor activities (rock climbing, hiking, swimming...)
- 12 participants aged 12 to 18
- Supervised by 3 J-S coaches
- In partnership with ClimbAID





# ACTIVITIES 2024 – TOTAL OUTINGS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
ROOKIE SLASH



90

Total outings

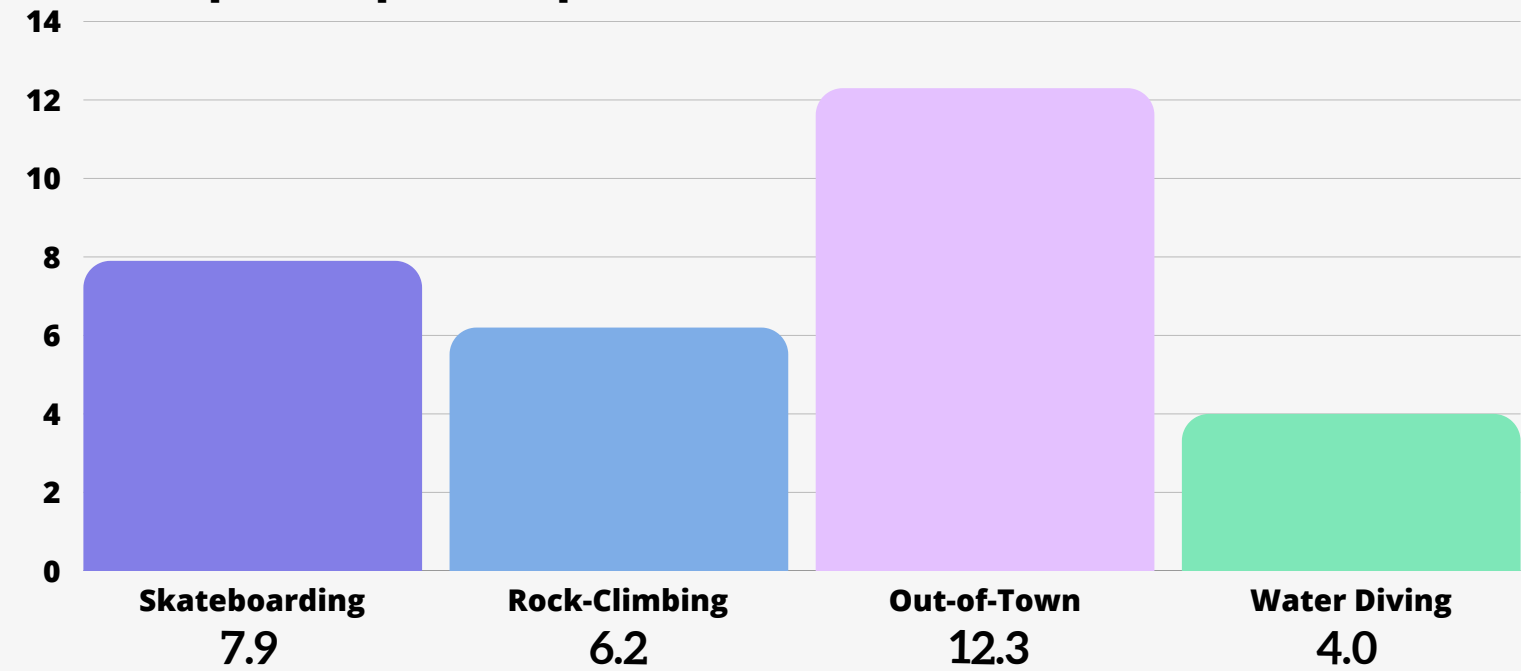
- 61 SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS
- 9 ROCK-CLIMBING SESSION
- 7 ON-SITE AT BOIS-DE-BAY
- 6 OUT-OF-TOWN SESSIONS
- 4 REACH-OUT SESSIONS
- 1 SWIMMING LESSONS & DIVING
- 1 5-DAYS WINTER CAMP
- 1 5-DAYS SUMMER CAMP



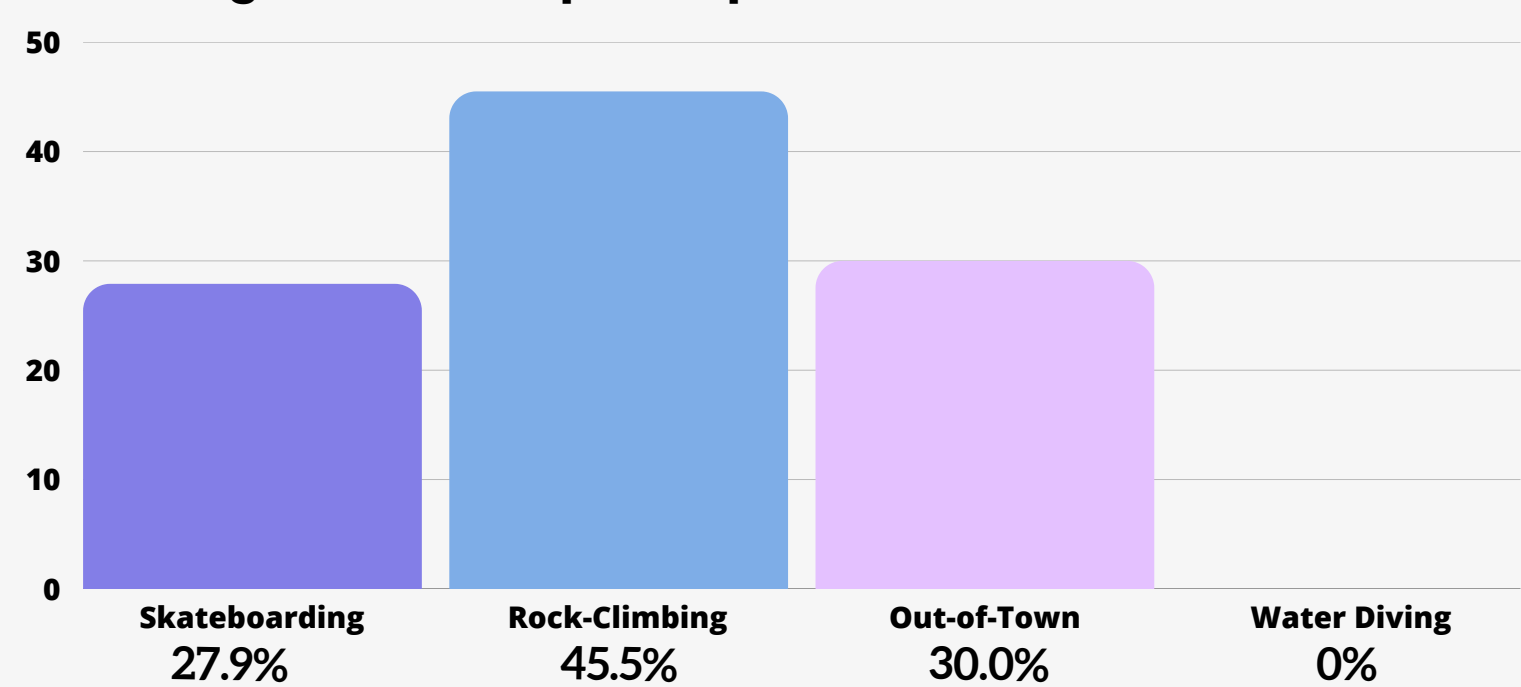
# ACTIVITIES 2024 – PARTICIPATION



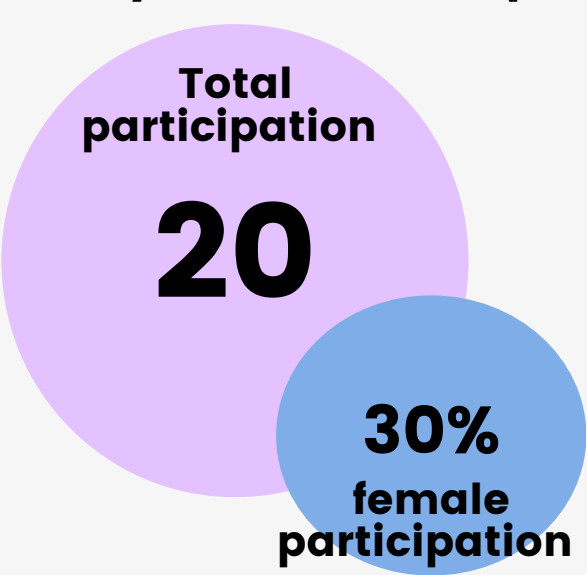
Median participation per activities



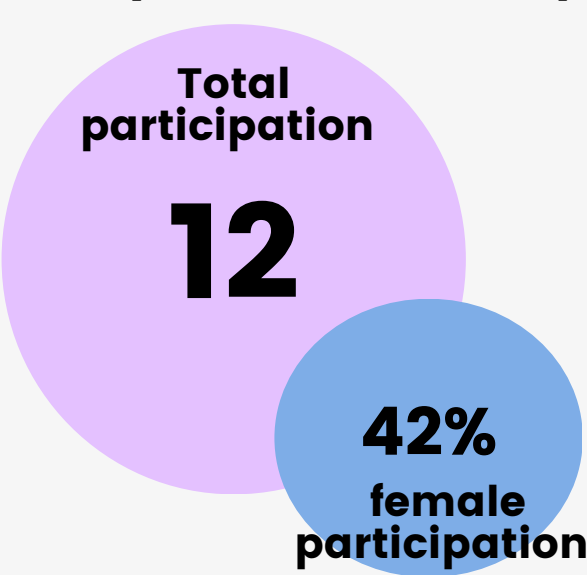
Percentage of female participation



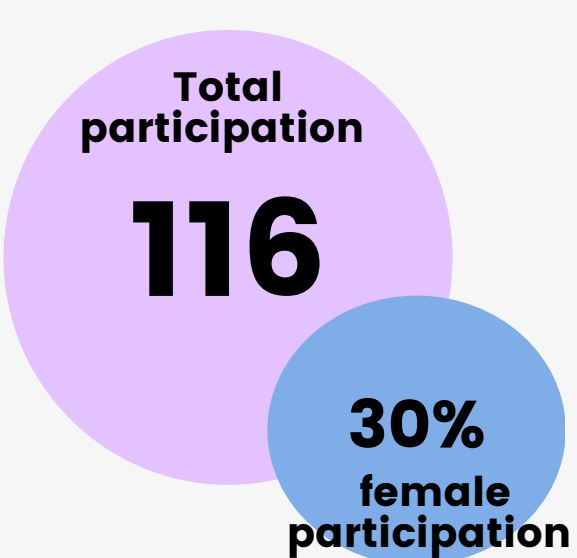
5-days Winter Camp



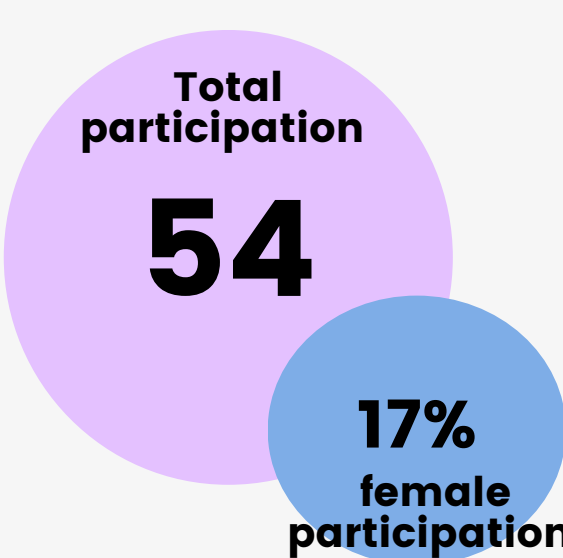
5-days Summer Camp



On-Site at B.D.B



Reach-Out Sessions



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.



# ACTIVITIES 2024 – PARTICIPATION



**Total participation in 2024  
all activities**

**810**

**31%  
female  
participation**



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.



# ACTIVITIES 2023 – YOUTH LEADERSHIP



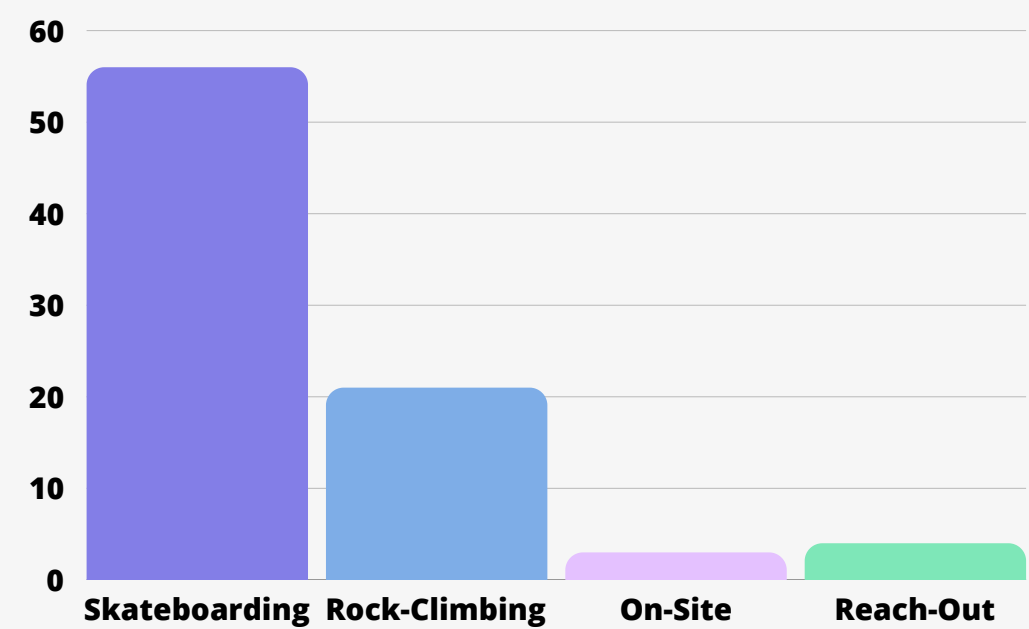
The Youth Leadership Program at Rookie Slash empowers young refugees to take on active roles within the organization. The program offers training and mentorship, helping participants transition from beneficiaries to leaders.

As part of the program, participants attend the General Assembly and semi-annual coach meetings to discuss Rookie Slash's organisation and provide their feedback from a participant's perspective.

They also support the coaches by joining classes as aid-coaches. This opportunity helps them develop skills as assistants and coaches, fostering leadership and a sense of ownership within the community.

In 2024, we welcomed 4 aid-coaches for skateboarding and climbing. Our goal is to invite 1-2 of them to become coaches next year, based on their pedagogical attitude, sports abilities, and the participants' interests, as assessed by both coaches and aid-coaches.

Youth Leadership participation per activities



## Total engagement of Youth Leadership Trainee

84

30%

female participation





# SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



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 28 surveys were anonymously filled out. The figures below are based on the collected surveys.

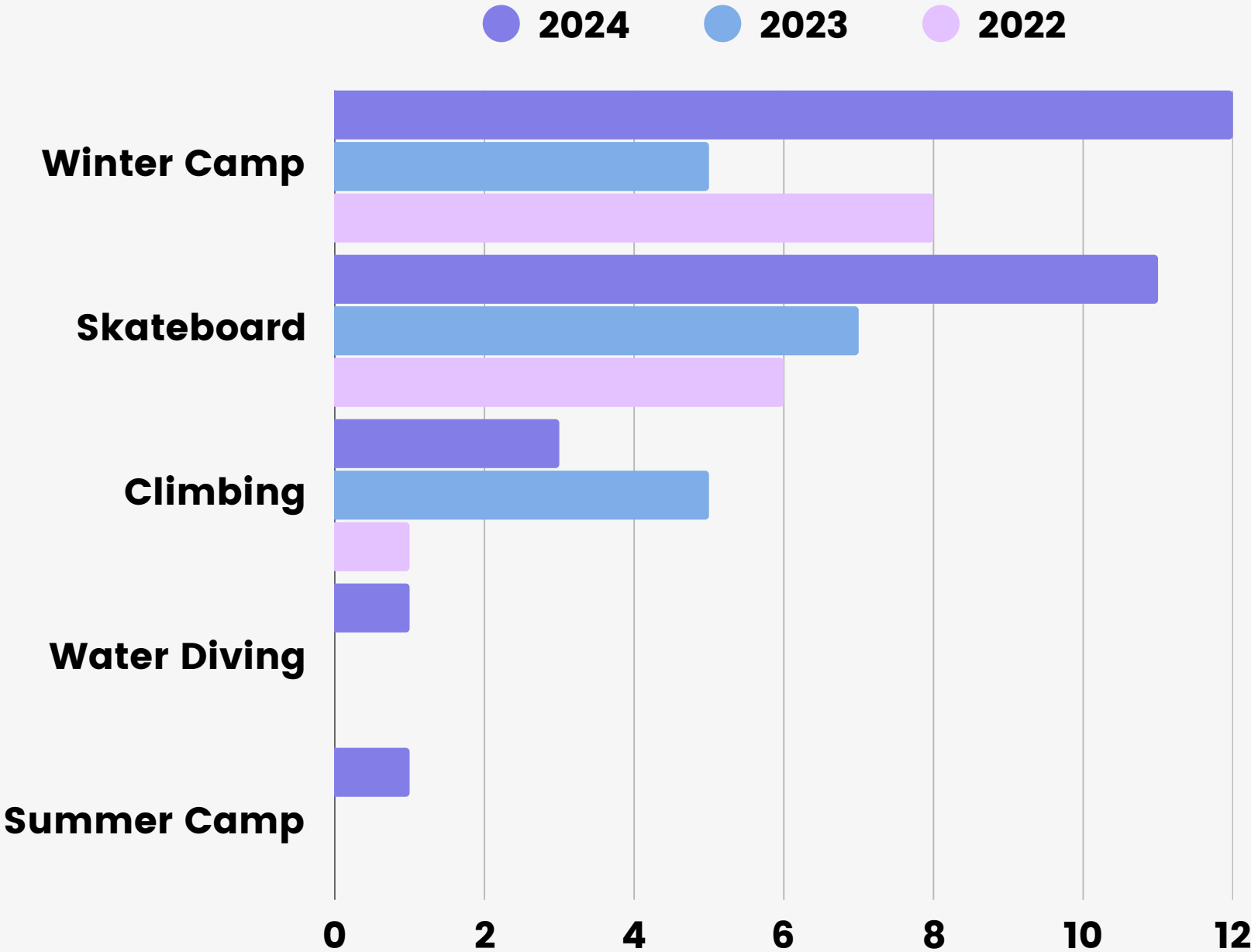
## Socio-demographics

Key indicator	2024	2023	2022
Gender	21 males (70%) 7 females (30%)	70% 30%	80% 20%
Age	Mean: 17 Youngest: 15 Oldest: 20	Mean: 16 Youngest: 14 Oldest: 19	Mean: 15 Youngest: 11 Oldest: 18
Nationality	50% Afghanistan 30% Ukraine 15% Eritrea 5% Others	30% Ukraine 25% Afghanistan 15% Eritrea 10% Türkiye 20% Others	33% Afghanistan 20% Erythrea 20% Ukraine 20% Syria 7% Ethiopia





## Preferences



## Comments

The preferences of participants show that Winter Camp and Skateboard are the most popular, with consistent growth. However, Water Diving and Summer Camp have lower demand. Water Diving had only one session due to coach availability, but we plan to improve it by expanding the program and possibly adding a female coach. Although the Summer Camp was full, it didn't match the satisfaction levels of the Winter Camp.

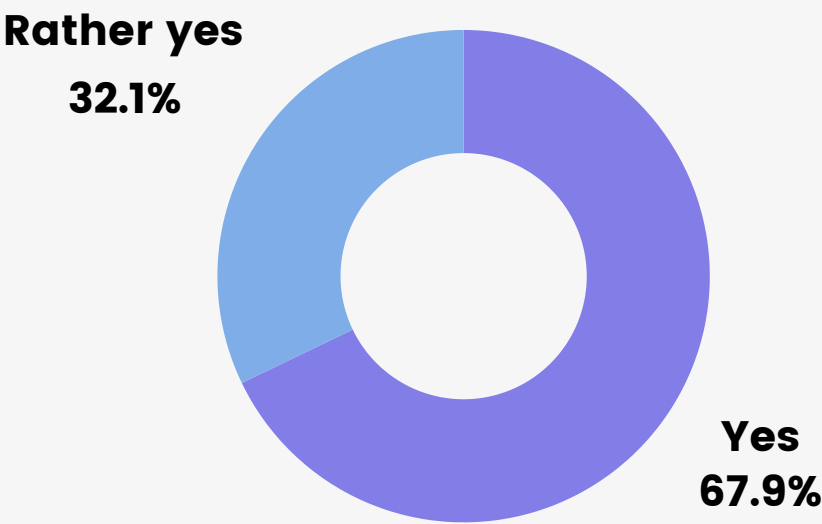




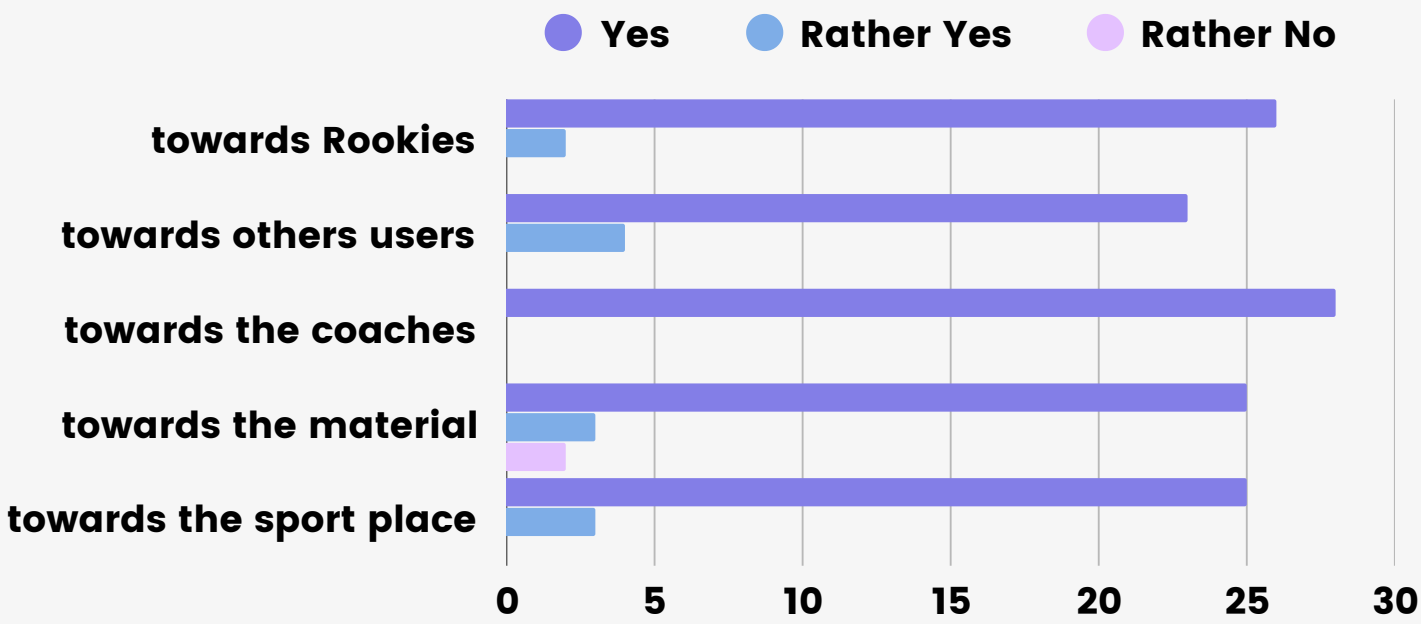


## Trust & Confidence

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



● Evaluation of the trust of the respondents towards



## Comments

Results show a positive impact of the activities on participants' self-confidence. 67.9% of respondents reported that their involvement has increased their self-confidence, while 32.1% indicated a more moderate effect.

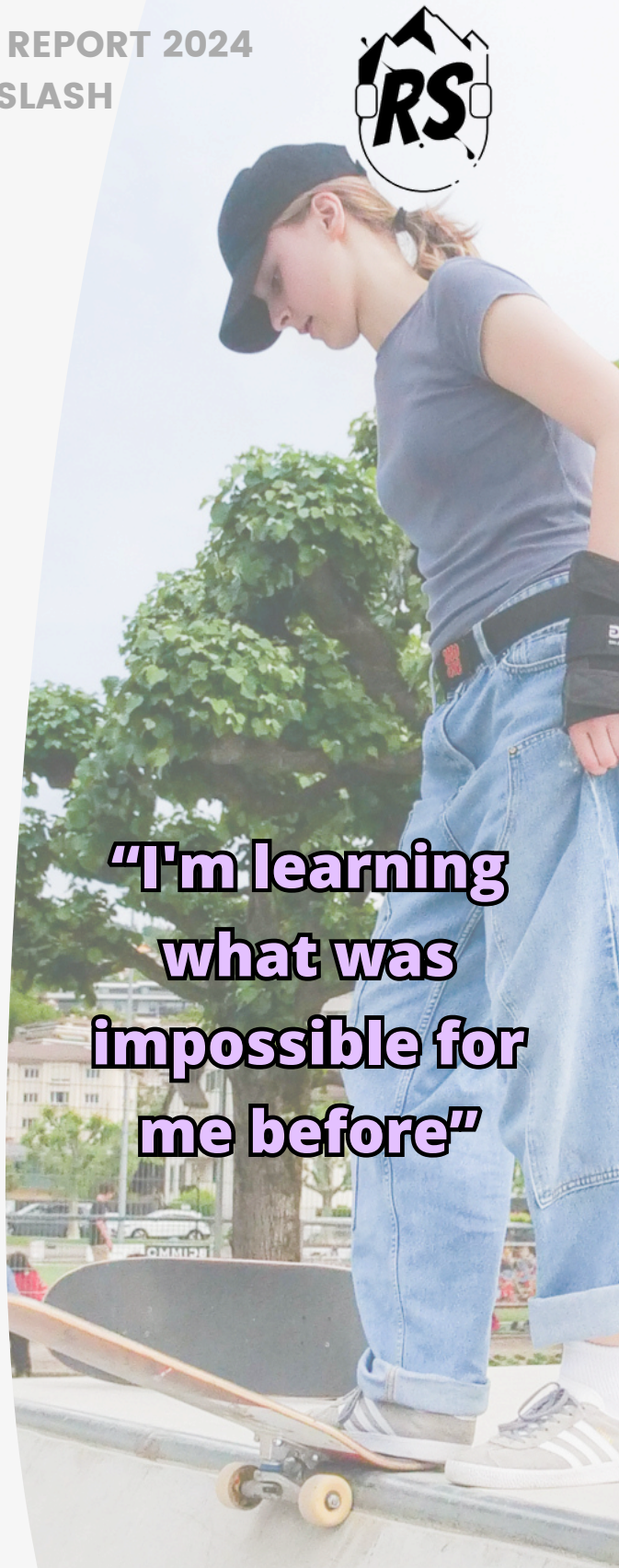
The evaluation demonstrates a high level of confidence in the Rookie Slash community. The majority of participants expressed trust in our coaches and sports facilities.

A slight mistrust of the equipment has prompted us to change the skateboard protection, which has been over-used.

Trust toward other participants, also, showed a slight dip, indicating a potential area for improvement.

**"I learn new topics of conversation, it's then easier for me to express myself with other people."**

**"I'm learning what was impossible for me before"**





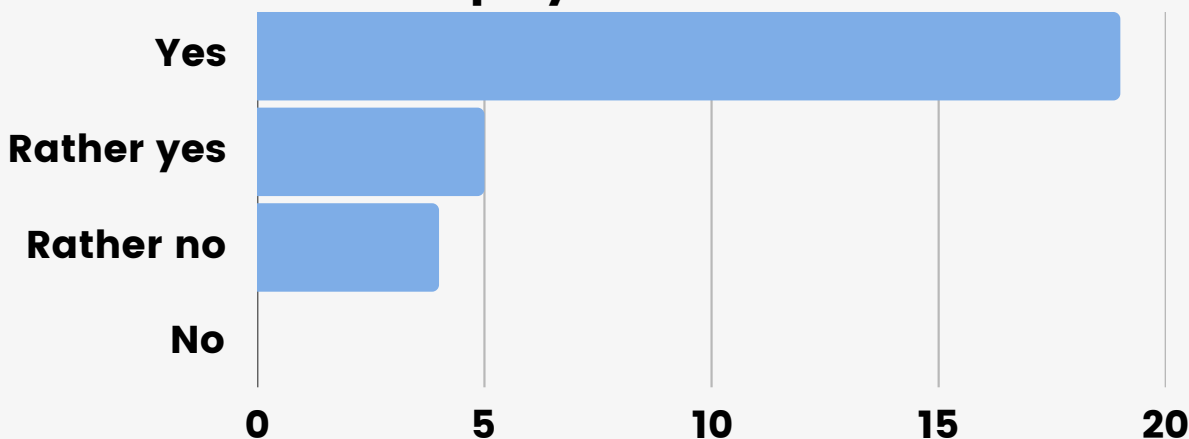
# SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
ROOKIE SLASH



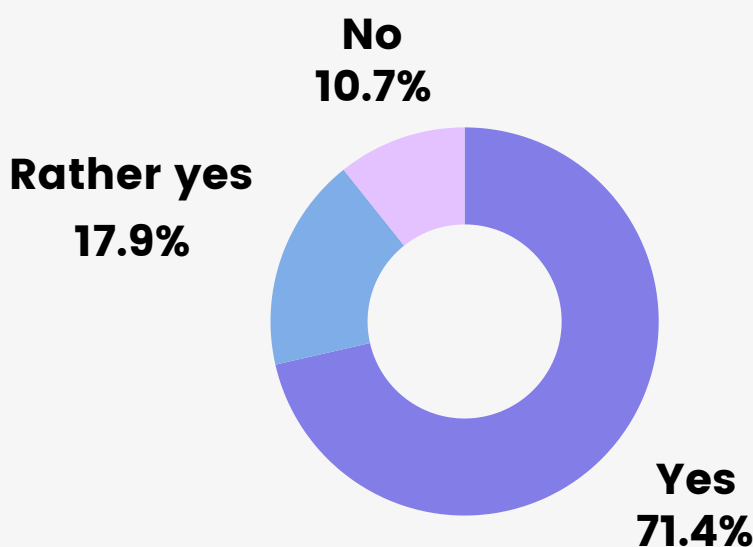
## Integration & Friendship

### ● Rookie Slash helps you make friends



**"I'm learning to speak French, which makes it much easier to make friends."**

### ● Rookie Slash helps you improve your French



**"Before I came to Rookie Slash, I only had one friend. Now I know lots of people"**

## Comments

The results indicate that our program significantly fosters friendships and social integration. Most participants feel that it helps them connect with others and build new relationships.

However, some "rather no" responses encourage us to ensure that no participant feels isolated during the sessions. We can do so by increasing the social aspects of our activities to promote more interaction among participants.

Additionally, 71.4% of participants report that the program has helped improve their French, with most "no" responses accompanied by comments from respondees saying they already speak French.





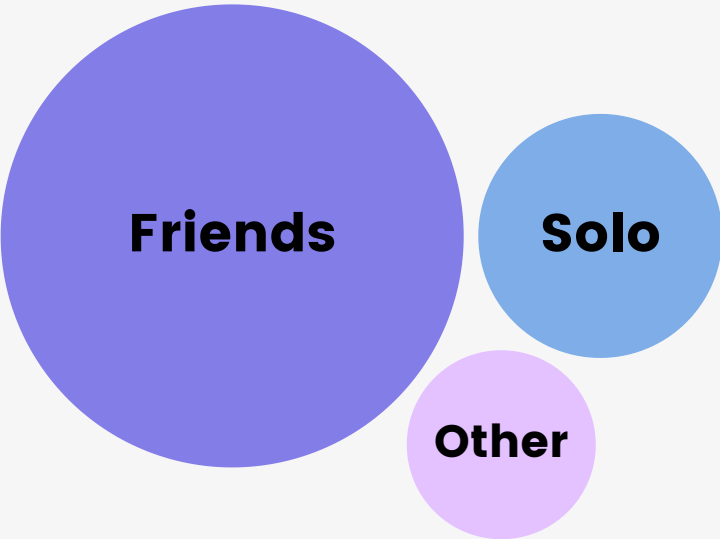
**“Ever since I was little, I wanted to learn to skate.  
Now I can skate by myself”**

## Autonomy in practice

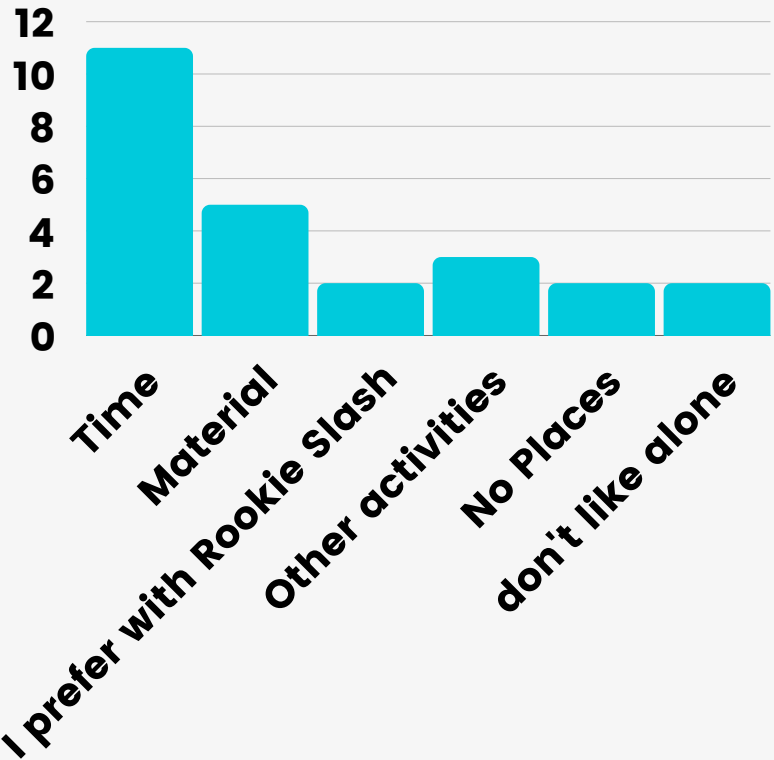
● **Do you practice  
Rookie’s sport  
beyond the classes ?**



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



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



## Comments

The results indicate that 64.3% of participants do not practice Rookie Slash sports outside of class, with the majority of those who do practicing with friends. This highlights a clear opportunity for improvement. Responses show that key factors preventing participation outside of classes is the lack of time and access to equipment.

To encourage more participants to practice independently, we can explore ways to provide better access to equipment. Additionally, fostering a stronger sense of community through more informal meetups or events may help participants feel more motivated to practice outside of formal classes.







## Conclusion

In conclusion, the program shows significant success in fostering self-confidence, social integration, and trust within the community. However, there are clear areas for improvement that will help us improve the feeling of belonging and safety in our program.

1. Expand the Water Diving program by increasing the number of sessions and potentially introducing a female coach to better engage our participants.
2. Develop a new format for the Summer Camp in 2025 to ensure higher engagement and satisfaction.
3. Introduce more social activities and encourage greater interaction during sessions to ensure that everyone feels included.
4. Improve access to necessary equipment and provide tips on independent practice.
5. To address the lack of familiarity among participants and other users, we will be inviting local associations to take part in more diversified activities. We want to foster a climate of trust between the different groups.

## Wall of testimonies

**"I've been with with Rookie Slash for some time and have every trust in you."**

**"We're like a family."**

**"When I'm with Rookie Slash I always feel good."**

**"At Rookie, I learn to talk to people, it's different from school."**

**"I became more confident and started doing more sport."**

**"Every time I try something and fall, the coaches encourage me. Then I did it perfectly.  
I think it's wonderful"**

**"I made a lot of friends, that saved my life from depression."**

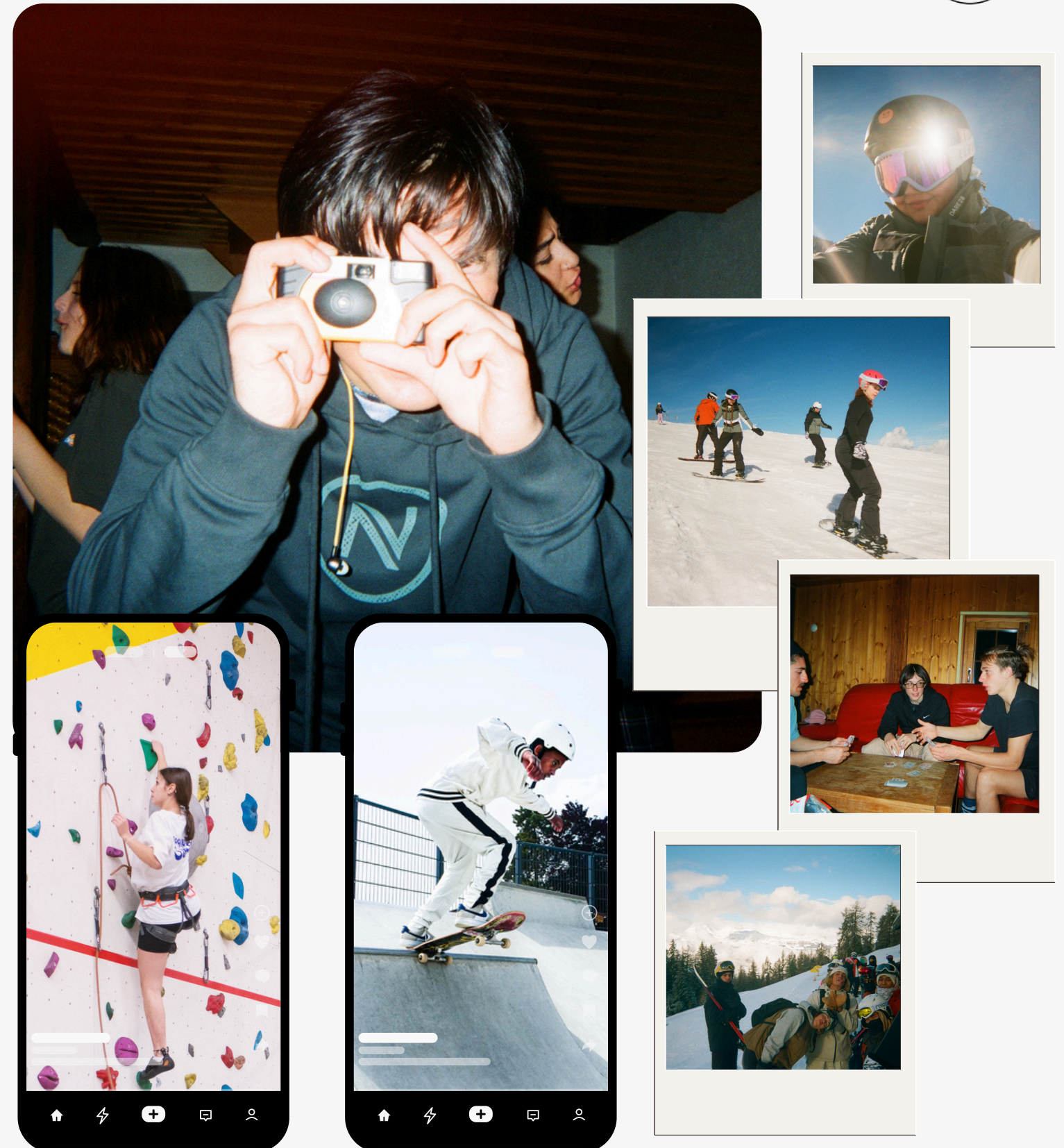


# COMMUNICATION



At Rookie Slash, we make sure our participants feel represented in the most positive light possible. This is achieved through various methods:

- Our name avoids any connotations of difference or need, such as "refugee" or "aid". With "Rookie" (meaning a new participant in a sport) and "Slash" (a skiing term for carving and kicking up snow), we aim to create an inclusive environment that prioritizes fun over competition.
- We only post photos and videos that reflect positive images of our participants. Our goal is for participants to feel empowered by the images shared on our social media platforms. To ensure this, we have included three aid-coaches in our communication team who review and approve every social media post before it is shared.
- During our Winter Camp 2024, we provided Kodak cameras to participants to capture their camp experience. All of our communication originates from these photos. This approach empowers participants by allowing them to share their own stories and impressions through their lens.







Etat du Patrimoine

Rookie Slash Association

Actifs	Au 31.12.2024	Au 31.12.2023
Actifs Courant:		
Disponible à la Banque	120040.05	89991.68
Créances	0	0
Provisions	0	0
Actifs Immobilisés:		
Matériel	8387.95	8387.95
Total:	128428	98379.63
Passifs	Au 31.12.2024	Au 31.12.2023
Dettes:		
Court terme	0	0
Long terme	0	0
Fond Propre:		
Capital propre	0	0
Bénéfices non distribués	98379.63	53412.2
Pertes & Profits net	30048.37	44967.43
Total:	128428	98379.63

The financial control and rapport  
had been supervised by Ramzy Chahboun  
and audited by Maxime Argeme and Mickael Jouini.

Compte de Pertes & Profits

Du 1er Janvier 2024 au 31 Décembre 2024

Recettes:

Subventions:

Nidecker SA	20000
Fonds De L'aide Au Sport	6200
FONDATION COROMANDEL	10000
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf	30000
Organe de Repartition Du Produit	10000
Etat De Genève Trésorerie Generale	10000
Fondation Gandur pour la Jeunesse	10000
Studio Eight Holdings Limited	5000
Ville De Genève	498.9
RaiseNow AG	55.05
Autre Subventions	1238

Total des recettes: 102991.95

Dépenses:

Matériel	3373.89
Transport	2635.63
Nourritures	4072.33
Entrée Skatepark + Grimpe	784.45
Charges de personnel	48948.25
Abonnements de ski + Entrée Skatepark	4447.5
Location Matériel	5812.7
Frais Bancaire	140
Charges Sociales	1965.23

Assurance 763.6

Total des Dépenses: 72943.58

Le Bilan et le Compte de Pertes et Profits sont exprimées en CHF



# Partners – Donors



Swiss  
Foundation  
wishing  
to remain  
anonymous





# Partners – Sport & Social



Hospice général





# CHALLENGES



## **Lack of collaboration with local associations:**

Local associations show little interest or lack resources to mix our participants with their activities. Reasons include concerns about integration, limited funds, and logistical barriers.

## **Challenges with the skatepark:**

No indoor skatepark, leading to frequent cancellations on rainy days due to the lack of alternative venues. The open nature of the skatepark increases the risk of unwanted interactions with the passers-by and participants.

Also, we lack space to store skateboarding equipment and protective gear.

Limited access to a safe indoor space and hygienic toilet facilities creates additional difficulties for our participants, especially females.

## **Changing participant demographics:**

Our original focus was on migrant youth aged 12-18, but we've now expanded to include participants up to 20 years old, notably through the Youth Leadership Program.

We're also reaching out to younger children through programs like those in Bois-de-Bay.

The challenge is to adapt our activities to keep older participants engaged while welcoming new, younger members.

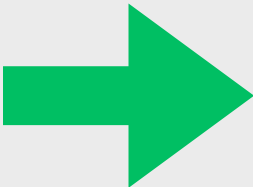




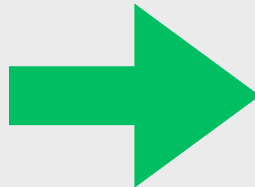


# FOLLOW-UP & NEXT STEPS

## NEXT STEPS 2024 (from annual report 2023)



## REFLECTION 2024



## NEXT STEPS 2025

### Program



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-bay. swimming lessons and diving during the summer. The emphasis will be on including new participants.

Throughout 2024, we maintain 2 skateboarding classes per week, the monthly out-of-town and Bois-de-Bay sessions plus the winter camp. Unfortunately, the partnership with ClimbAID for the weekly courses has come to an end, we can't share the numbers of classes. We have, however, developed a new climbing course with the Pervenche association. Plus, we have, for the first time, opened a Summer Camp in partnership with ClimbAID.

We will maintain our program, intending it to be multi-sports, particularly in our summer activities, with camps or swimming lessons. We will also continue to invite other associations to work with us to expand our programs. We will strive to enhance our participants' autonomy in practicing their favorite sport after they leave the association, with access to equipment and venues. In this way, we can also make room for new participants at the same time.

### Engagement



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 accompany 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.

Most of our participants are regulars, which shows that our program is well adapted and appreciated. We however see our participants ageing and have to focus on getting new participants. The Youth Leadership program has been a great success, with a high level of participation and genuine interest from participants.

Beyond the regular program, we will continue the Youth Leadership program. We plan to welcome participants of the Youth Leadership program as coaches in 2025 while opening new aid-coaches positions. In parallel, we will continue our efforts to welcome new participants to our regular program through regular initiations with Hospice Général.

### Funding & Development



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.

2024 Fundraising was a success, enabling us to finance all our activities. In addition, the allocation of funds to the program director, communication, and sports manager has improved the quality of our communication, program and the comfort of our coaches, who remain committed to our activities. ClimbAID, one of our partners stopped the partnership for regular bouldering session. We will continue sending interested participant to their activity. We have, however, established a new partnership with the Association Pervenches and set up a system of formal agreements to affirm our long-term commitment to any efforts to expand the program. New structures, beyond Geneva, have asked us to support their efforts to integrate refugees into their programs.

We want to use this paid positions to communicate our impact and program more widely to the public and sponsors. We want to develop partnerships beyond Geneva in an organic way, such as Lausanne. This will depend heavily on the commitment of partner organizations. Rather than multiplying partnerships, we want to foster sustainable partnerships with associations, donors and social structures.



# CONTACT & DONATION INFO



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## Support us !

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Name of the Account : Association Rookie Slash

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