



## **Climb for a Cause Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why should I climb as a part of the WNPf Climb for a Cause program rather than going directly through a climb company?**

When you sign up to be a part of the WNPf's Climb for a Cause program, not only do you get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to climb a beautiful and iconic peak in Washington, but you also get to give back to these special places that need your support. The funds that are raised through Climb for a Cause support search and rescue efforts in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Climb for a Cause is a great way to have an unforgettable experience with other like-minded climbers while making a major impact on the national parks in Washington.

**I'm interested in participating in Climb for a Cause, but I've never climbed before. Is previous experience required?**

No! Previous experience is not required. In fact, we've seen everyone from first-time climbers to people who've tackled 14ers successfully complete a climb. Your guides will provide basic mountaineering skills training during your climb. Keep in mind, these climbs are rigorous – more rigorous than a typical hike in the mountains. We highly recommend reviewing the guide companies' website to better understand what is to be expected on each climb: [International Mountain Guides](#), [Alpine Ascents International](#).

**I want to sign up for Climb for a Cause! What are the next steps?**

Contact Kristen Oliphant ([kristen@wnpf.org](mailto:kristen@wnpf.org)) with the specific climb and date you're interested in. You will then complete and sign a Climb for a Cause Participant Agreement Form and return it to Kristen along with payment of your non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 (credit cards accepted). You will also be required to complete the designated IMG

or AAI climb application as well as set up your fundraising page on JustGiving. Once all those steps are completed, you'll then receive confirmation that your climbing spot is secured along with exciting information to get you started fundraising and to help you begin preparing for the climb itself!

### **What are the fundraising commitments for the climbs?**

This year, the climbers are responsible for the following fundraising commitments:

- Mount Rainier (Tahoma): \$3,800.00
- Mount Olympus: \$2,800.00
- Mount Baker (Koma Kulshan): \$2,200.00

### **What are the ways my supporters can donate to support my climb?**

Washington's National Park Fund uses the peer-to-peer fundraising platform JustGiving – there, you will create a fundraising page that will allow you to track your progress towards reaching your fundraising goal. Gifts by credit or debit card can be made for your climb directly through the JustGiving page.

If your supporter prefers to support your climb with a gift by check, of cash or stock, or via PayPal or Venmo, please contact Kristen Oliphant at [kristen@wnpf.org](mailto:kristen@wnpf.org).

### **What happens if I am unable to secure the full fundraising total?**

Per the Climb for a Cause Participant Agreement, each participant agrees to fundraise or personally be responsible for "X" Fundraising Commitment ("Fundraising Total"). **If the participant is unable to secure the full fundraising total by the fundraising total deadline date (two weeks prior to climb start date), then they will be personally responsible for any remaining fundraising difference.** Any fundraising difference will be charged to the credit card provided the week before the climb start date. *Notification will be sent in advance to confirm the date this payment will be processed.*

### **What is the cancellation policy?**

If a participant wants to cancel their participation before the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline (**three months prior to the climb start date**), they must notify WNPF by email. WNPF will process cancellation notices received before the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline, and **the participant will be responsible for half of the fundraising total**. They will not be responsible for the full fundraising total. If a participant chooses to cancel their participation after the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline, **they must raise the full fundraising total, or the remaining fundraising difference will be charged to their credit card on file**. This is due two (2) weeks prior to the climb start date.

### **If I donate to my climbing fundraising page, is it tax deductible?**

Only the amount an individual donates to their climb **above the value of the climb** is considered tax deductible.

*For example*, if the climber commits to a fundraising minimum of \$2,800 for a climb that is valued at \$1,800 and then that climber donates the full amount to their fundraising page and hits the climb minimum, **only the difference of \$1,000 would be tax-deductible**.

If someone's fundraising page raises an amount equal to the value of the climb, then any gifts the climber made/makes towards the fundraising minimum would be considered tax-deductible.

Please consult your tax advisor for more details about your specific tax liability. If you have questions about your giving or would like a record of your giving history to share with your advisor, please contact [office@wnpf.org](mailto:office@wnpf.org).

### **Someone gave me a cash gift. How do I add an offline donation to my fundraising page?**

All offline donations must be submitted to WNPF for verification and approval before adding them to your fundraising page. Once WNPF has approved you to add the offline donation, follow these steps:

1. Log into your JustGiving account, then click on your name/icon in the top right corner and select **'Profile'**
2. Click **'Edit'** on the page you'd like to add the balance to from your Profile area

3. Click '*Donations*' along the top of the page
4. Enter in the amount box the total amount raised offline (\$X) and select '*Save offline donations*'

**If a coworker donates to my climbing page, I'm assuming my employer/company will match their donation. Does that match count towards my fundraising goal, and can I add that to my fundraising page?**

Yes, donations in support of your climb that are matched by corporations do count towards your fundraising goal. You'll have to check with your employer/company to see if they offer a match program. If so, then the individual who made the donation to your fundraising page will also have to initiate the match. After they've done that, have them forward the confirmation/approval of the match to Kristen Oliphant ([kristen@wnpf.org](mailto:kristen@wnpf.org)) She will then approve you to add that amount as an *offline donation* to your fundraising page.

**Does JustGiving send out a tax receipt when friends and family donate to my fundraising page?**

Yes, JustGiving sends this out as soon as the donation is made.

**Can I contribute to my climb by directing a gift from my Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? Can my supporters?**

Donors cannot receive a personal benefit from DAF grantmaking, so directing a gift from your personal DAF to cover your climb fundraising commitment is **not permitted**. Your supporters\*, however, are able to advise a gift to Washington's National Park Fund in support of your climb. Please notify Kristen Oliphant ([kristen@wnpf.org](mailto:kristen@wnpf.org)) if you know of a supporter who intends to donate to your climb via a DAF so we can watch for the gift. Once received, Kristen will notify you so you can add the amount as an offline gift on your fundraising page and thank your supporter. (\**Supporters cannot be related to you*)

**What are some fundraising strategies you recommend?**

Create a clear, compelling Call-to-Action (CTA) by combining a *belief* statement + *you* statement + *opportunity* statement. For example:

- **Belief statement:** I believe what makes Washington so beautiful are the magnificent national parks here!
- **You statement:** You can help support search and rescue efforts in Washington's national parks by donating to my fundraising climb which will help raise funds and awareness to improve the capabilities of search and rescue teams, ensuring a safer environment for all who venture into Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.
- **Opportunity statement:** *"Will you help me reach my goal of raising \$3,800 that will go to support search and rescue efforts in Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks?"*

**Get creative.** Contests and challenges are a fun way to gamify giving within your network. Tell your team you'll do something fun/weird/exciting when you reach your goal, hike a mile for every \$100 raised, or bake brownies for a randomly selected supporter of your fundraiser. There are so many fun ways to get your friends and family engaged!

- *Example:* a climber that participated in CFAC last year brought a can of Rainier beer on her training hike up to Mailbox Peak and left it in the mailbox. On the beer she taped a piece of paper that talked about her fundraising efforts which included the link to her fundraising page. A stranger ended up donating \$100 to her fundraising page.

**Get social.** Check out WNPF's social channels to get inspiration for posts and hashtags. Use our hashtag, **#ForYourParks**, and tag our handle for a chance to be featured. Consider putting your fundraising page link in your bio and reference it in your posts. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**What crampons would you recommend? Do we really need an avalanche transceiver?**

These are great questions! Please contact your assigned mountain guide company: IMG ([office@mountainguides.com](mailto:office@mountainguides.com)) or AAI ([climb@alpineascents.com](mailto:climb@alpineascents.com))

