

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS · SUMMER 2026



FRIENDS OF THE FUND,

Summer is here — and what a season it's shaping up to be!

In part thanks to your incredible response to our GiveBIG campaign — and with thanks to each of our Return to Paradise supporters and sponsors — donors are empowering transformative projects across Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks right now.

From trail crews heading into Mount Rainier's backcountry to students on the Olympic Peninsula experiencing the joy of kayaking on Lake Crescent for the very first time, this community's generosity is turning peak season into peak impact for the parks.

Thank you for being the reason these places thrive.

Steve Dubiel
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Read on for one of my favorite examples of what that looks like in action — and don't miss page 3, where you'll find our latest Impact Report and a peek at the projects your gifts are fueling across all three parks.



Thanks to donor support, the team at Olympic National Park brings hundreds of young people into the park to be inspired each year. NPS photo. Right: What do you get when you mix curious kids, passionate park rangers, and some truly epic Washington landscapes? The kind of memories — and connections — that last a lifetime. Photo by NPS/Kathryn Ferguson.



From First Field Trips to Future Scientists

How Donor Support Is Sparking Lifelong Connections at Olympic National Park

By Alex Day, Director of Marketing & Communications

Thanks to you, summer at Olympic National Park looks a little different for some excited young visitors this year.

Instead of a quick stop at a scenic overlook, they're kayaking and canoeing, finding coastal tidepool critters, collecting real scientific data, and meeting park rangers — learning about the work that keeps the park running.

Two long-running education programs at Olympic — **Adventures in Your Big Backyard** and **Middle School Science** — are welcoming students into the park not just as visitors, but as scientists, explorers, and future stewards of public lands. And they're made possible thanks to donor support through Washington's National Park Fund.

For nearly a decade, **Adventures in Your Big Backyard** has introduced Olympic National Park to kids and teens who might otherwise never set foot there. This past year, Olympic's education staff partnered with the

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An update on

Together FOR THE PARKS

Photo by Mitch Pittman.

A Trail Worth Saving

If you've ever paused on the Skyline Trail to catch your breath and take in the view, you understand what's at stake.

Mount Rainier's most-visited path, the Skyline Trail, sees more than 100,000 visitors each year — and the weight of that love is showing. Decades of heavy foot traffic have braided the trail into fragile alpine meadows, scarring the landscape and eroding the soil that supports the wildflowers for which Paradise is famous. Without intervention, the damage compounds every season.

Rehabilitating the Skyline Trail is the next critical phase of Restoring Paradise, our *Together for the Parks* signature initiative. With funding, Mount Rainier National Park will rebuild the most damaged sections, improve drainage, create defined rest areas, and restore braided paths using native plantings — giving one of the most iconic trails in the national park system the care it deserves.

Right now, thanks to a generous 2:1 matching gift from two devoted supporters — including Sue and Mike Raney — every dollar you give will be matched, up to \$75,000. It's a rare and limited opportunity to triple your impact for the Skyline.

Will you join us? Give at wnpf.org/skyline.

Andrea D. Christensen

Andrea Christensen
Philanthropy Director

P.S. Questions? I'd love to connect — andrea@wnpf.org.

MEET THE WNPf BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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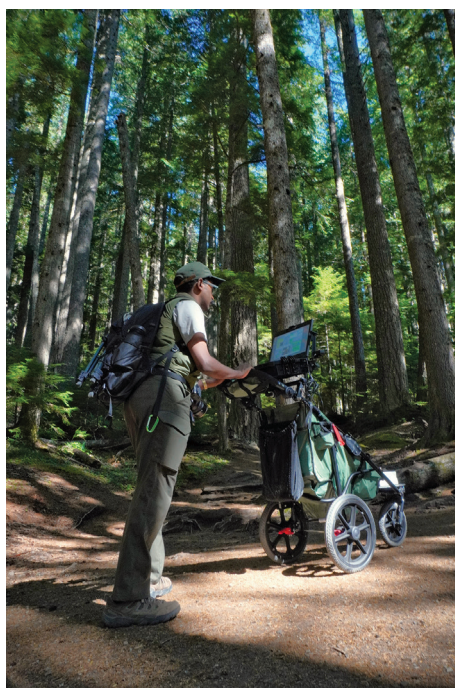


Photo by Kacey Saturday.

**"Mount Rainier belongs to all of us —
and we're making sure everyone can
experience it."**

Thanks to donor support through the *Together for the Parks* campaign, the Access for All project is systematically collecting trail data across Mount Rainier — measuring surface, slope, and obstacles — to build the digital accessibility tools and signage that help visitors of all abilities plan their visit with confidence.

Transformative projects like Skyline Trail rehabilitation and Access for All share the same vision: a Mount Rainier that is safe, resilient, and welcoming to everyone.

Learn more at wnpf.org/access-for-all, and see it in action by watching our video on YouTube.



FROM FIRST FIELD TRIPS TO FUTURE SCIENTISTS

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Adventures in Your Big Backyard participants at Rialto Beach. Photo by NPS/Kathryn Ferguson.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula, reaching 236 youth. In 2025, the program offered seven full-day park adventures, exploring the diverse ecosystems of Rialto Beach, Sol Duc Falls, Hurricane Ridge, the Elwha, Salt Creek, and Lake Crescent. Add canoeing and kayaking, and “summer program” quickly becomes “core memory.”

If Adventures in Your Big Backyard is about discovery, **Middle School Science** is about connection, linking what students learn in school to the living, breathing landscape around them. Available to all 7th and 8th graders at Stevens Middle School in Port Angeles, the program combines classroom learning with field-based science in the park, as well as cultural history lessons developed in collaboration with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. In 2025, park rangers made nearly 750 meaningful connections with students, and students contributed real data to an ecological monitoring dataset dating back two decades.

These programs wouldn't exist without donor support. And their impact goes far beyond any single field trip — they spark belonging, curiosity, and the seeds of a lifetime of stewardship.

Today it's a snowshoe walk at Hurricane Ridge. Tomorrow, it could be a career protecting public lands.



Students learned about food systems in the garden. Photo by Common Threads Farm.

Your Gifts in Action

“Look, farmer, I have a worm for a ring!”

—A young program participant

In North Cascades National Park, stewardship sometimes starts in a school garden. Thanks to donor support, the Food Sustainability & Native Plant Education project is connecting Lummi Nation School students to native plants, traditional foods, and the landscapes that have sustained their community since time immemorial — building the kind of hands-on curiosity that turns into a lifelong relationship with the land. Learn more about this innovative partnership at wnpf.org/connections.



OUR FLAT HAT SALUTE

This season, we're raising a hat to three partners investing in the next generation of park stewards. Thank you to the **Skagit Community Foundation** for supporting field trips for elementary school students to North Cascades National Park, introducing students to the park's natural and cultural resources and reinforcing classroom learning through place-based education. And to the **Keta Legacy Foundation** and the **Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund** — thank you for making Olympic National Park's Middle School Science Program possible, sending hundreds of students into the field as real scientists. Because of partners like these, young people are finding their place in Washington's national parks.



Curious how your generosity helped in 2025?

See your impact by the numbers. From 2,200 park volunteers supported, powering nearly 70,000 hours of service, to thousands of young people who got to connect with the parks through education programs — it's a lot. Read the full Impact Report at wnpf.org/report.

Your Chance to See Projects in Action

Interested in learning more about the impact of your giving? Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at one of our in-park donor activities:

- Shadow a Mount Rainier Meadow Rover Hike | July 31
- Olympic's Magical Night Skies Weekend | August 7-8
- North Cascades Glacier Talk & Guided Hike | August 30

Find dates, details, and registration information on wnpf.org/activities.



Parkfest, WNPf's annual fall fundraising event in Seattle, brings together park rangers and supporters for an unforgettable night. Photo by Mitch Pittman

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of events, visit wnpf.org/events

SUNDAY, AUG. 2

Ride the Hurricane at Olympic National Park

A ride supporting the park.

Details:

ridethehurricane.org

THURSDAY, AUG. 20

Pints for the Parks at Finnriver Farm & Cidery

Join us out on the Olympic Peninsula:

wnpf.org/events

SATURDAY, AUG. 22

Seattle Mariners Washington's National Parks Night

A game that gives back for the parks. Details:

wnpf.org/mariners

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Pacific Runderland 5k & Kids Run in Auburn

A run supporting the parks.

Details:

pacificrunderlandevents.com

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Happy Birthday to North Cascades National Park

This national park was established in 1968! Learn more:

wnpf.org/north-cascades

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

Dick's-A-Thon in Seattle

A hamburger-themed run supporting search and rescue organizations, in honor of Ian Cox. Details: dicksathon.com

Parkfest is back!

Friday, November 6 | The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center

Come celebrate Washington's national parks at the most exciting fundraiser of the fall season. Expect park-themed games, fireside chats, a raffle, and a silent auction loaded with epic outdoor experiences.

Mark your calendar: this is the fall event you don't want to miss. Invitations are coming soon, so stay in the loop by signing up for our emails: wnpf.org/get-our-emails



Investing in Parks for All Seasons

The parks don't take a season off — and neither does your impact. When you give monthly as a member of our Parks for All Seasons recurring giving community, you provide the steady, predictable support that helps us plan for the season ahead and respond when it matters most for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

Make your commitment to the parks simple and automatic. Start your monthly gift today at wnpf.org/recurring.



Washington's National Park Fund is the official philanthropic partner of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks