

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS • FALL 2026



FRIENDS OF THE FUND,

There's a certain magic to fall in the parks: golden leaves, crisp mountain air, and a moment to reflect. This year, thanks to you, we're closing one of our strongest years yet, with the full story still to come.

This year also marks a milestone close to my heart. Ten years ago, WNPf launched the Over the Top Society, a community whose unrestricted giving takes park projects "over the top" right when they're needed most. And some of the founding members are still involved — an incredible testament to the good we're able to do for the parks we love.

As we look forward, we're excited to welcome Jason Taylor, the new superintendent at North Cascades National Park. With more than two decades of experience and a love of the partnerships that help parks thrive, he's a wonderful addition to this community.

Here's to all that lies ahead, together.

Steve Dubiel
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Please join me in welcoming Maddie Mikell, our new Development Manager! Get to know her on page 3.



Did you know? In a single square foot of Mount Rainier's subalpine meadow, as many as 80 plants grow together and just one step off trail can crush 20 of them. Multiply that by more than 1.5 million visitors a year, and it's clear why the Meadow Rovers matter. Photo: Mount Rainier captured by a new addition to the WNPf Creative Partners, Laura Lango.



Guardians of the Meadows

How Donor-Funded Volunteers Became Mount Rainier's Award-Winning Stewards

By Alex Day, Director of Marketing & Communications

If you've ever hiked the trails in Paradise and Sunrise, you may have encountered a passionate group of park volunteers that spend their summers protecting Mount Rainier's beloved wildflower-studded meadows.

They're the Meadow Rovers, and their role is to patrol alpine trails, guide hikers, share the stories behind the landscape, and keep people safe, even when they're far from the trailhead.

Their approach is simple: educate, never enforce. "We're not here to tell people, 'Don't do this.' We're here to tell them, 'This is why,'" says Sunrise Meadow Rover Coordinator David Divelbiss.

It's a philosophy that's earned national acclaim, and it's powered by you. Donor support funds the coordinator positions at the heart of the program, along with the radios, vehicles, and safety gear the Rovers rely on all season long. And the scale of their impact is hard to overstate.

Last year, 319 Meadow Rovers gave 14,124 hours of service, roughly the work of seven full-time staff. They connected with nearly 225,000

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An update on

Together FOR THE PARKS

Friends,

This fall, our *Together for the Parks* campaign is turning bold plans into real progress across Washington's national parks.

At North Cascades National Park, we're taking on one of its most pressing challenges. Thanks to recent grants from the **National Park Foundation**, a much-needed seasonal workforce housing project in Marblemount is moving from vision to design, helping house the people who care for the park and closing roughly half of the area's seasonal workforce housing gap. Learn why it matters now at wnpf.org/housing.

At Mount Rainier National Park, momentum is building for the restoration of the Skyline Trail, the next phase of our Restoring Paradise signature project. With more than 80 donors stepping up to help us reach the matching grant, we have less than \$100,000 to reach the goal. It's not too late to help! Join the movement at wnpf.org/skyline.

Thank you for showing up for these places.

Andrea D. Christensen

Andrea Christensen
Philanthropy Director

P.S. Want to learn more about these initiatives and how to get involved? Reach out anytime at andrea@wnpf.org.



This season, we have several salutes to give! Thank you to our friends at the **National Park Foundation**, the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, for awarding grants to help fund our workforce housing effort at North Cascades National Park. To **Airbnb**, a sincere thank you for their grant supporting our mission and for rallying volunteers and inspiring people to get outside and care for the national parks. And a big thank you to the **REI Cooperative Action Fund**, whose grant is helping fund work to connect more people with the outdoors. Because of partners like these, Washington's national parks are in good hands.



During Marmoteer training, volunteers learn how to identify potential habitat and plan safe, efficient routes through the survey areas. Photo by Kacey Saturay.

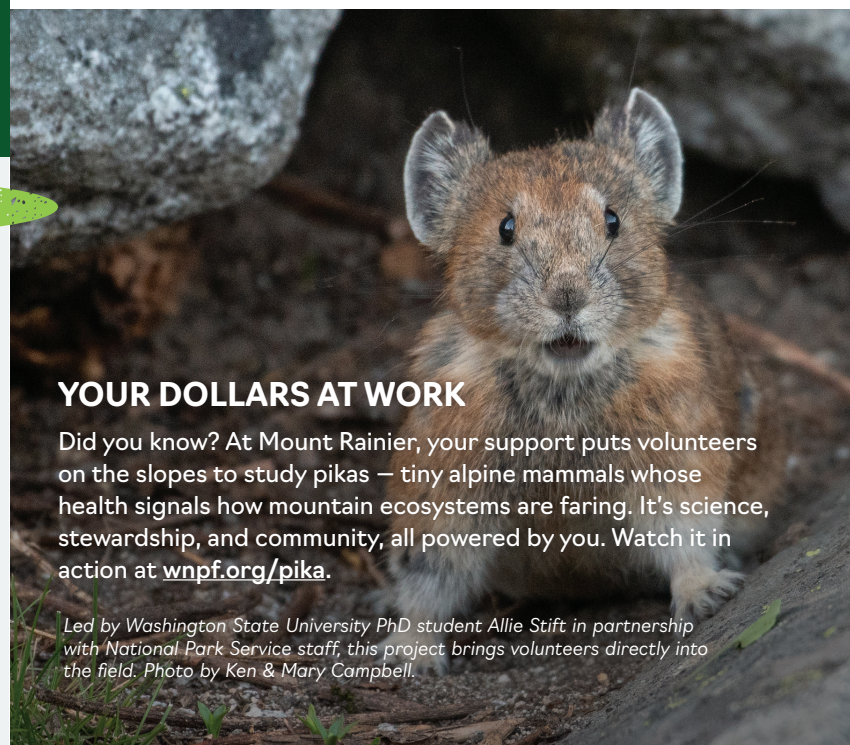
Your Gifts in Action

"It was incredibly energizing to experience it all firsthand, especially knowing I was directly contributing to protecting the Olympic marmot — a species found nowhere else in the world."

- Lisa Drake, WNPf's Donor Engagement Manager,
after Marmoteer training

High in Olympic National Park, trained volunteers called Marmoteers head into the backcountry each summer to survey the Olympic marmot and track how this rare alpine species is faring. Thanks to you, this donor-supported program supplies the GPS units, bear canisters, and hands-on training that make the work possible. As the marmots settle in for their long winter hibernation, the data volunteers gathered this season helps protect them for years to come.

See what it's like to become a Marmoteer at wnpf.org/marmot-training.



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Did you know? At Mount Rainier, your support puts volunteers on the slopes to study pikas — tiny alpine mammals whose health signals how mountain ecosystems are faring. It's science, stewardship, and community, all powered by you. Watch it in action at wnpf.org/pika.

Led by Washington State University PhD student Allie Stiff in partnership with National Park Service staff, this project brings volunteers directly into the field. Photo by Ken & Mary Campbell.



The Excellence in Volunteerism Innovation Award, formerly the Hartzog Awards, recognizes a volunteer initiative within a park or program that has demonstrated significant innovation or creativity in meeting a park/program goal or need through volunteerism. Photo by NPS/Yonit Yogev.

National Recognition

This fall, Mount Rainier's Meadow Rover program received the National Park Service's Excellence in Volunteerism Innovation Award, presented at a ceremony at the Department of the Interior. It's a national honor, and well-deserved. Scan the QR code to read about the award.



GUARDIANS OF THE MEADOWS

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visitors, many of whom may never have met a park representative beyond the entrance gate otherwise.

Behind that reach is a simple multiplier: train one Rover, and that knowledge travels to every hiker they meet, day after day, across an entire season. As David puts it, one staffer might reach 150 people in a day, but a well-trained crew of 15 reaches thousands.

The Rovers also do plenty of behind-the-scenes work that most visitors never see. They install the barriers that steer foot traffic around the most delicate ground, assist wildlife specialists, and lend a hand to community science projects. One recent season, they even helped protect a den of Cascade red fox kits.

Now, as another season winds down, that spirit carries forward. By some estimates, every dollar invested in volunteerism returns six to seven times its value in service to the land and the people who love it. That's the quiet power of the Meadow Rovers: a modest investment, multiplied across hundreds of hands, protecting a landscape that will inspire for generations to come.

NEW SEASON, NEW FACES

Meet **Maddie Mikell**, WNPf's new Development Manager! Maddie brings more than eight years of nonprofit fundraising experience and a genuine love of the outdoors to her role, focusing on annual giving and donor data to connect supporters with the projects that need funding most across Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. (Be sure to ask her about the Mount Rainier view from Kerry Park — she'll say "wow!") Get to know her in her Q&A by scanning the QR code.



We're also thrilled to welcome **Jason J. Taylor**, the new superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, who stepped into the role in September. With more than two

decades of experience, including most recently serving as Indiana Dunes National Park Superintendent, and a love of the partnerships that help parks thrive, Jason is a wonderful addition. We can't wait to work with him in support of North Cascades. Read the park's press release by scanning the QR code.



MEET THE WNPf BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly Lake (Chair) • Alma Busby Williams • Jane Eckels • Teresa Hagerty • Fred Hammerquist • Ayesha Harper
Tony Hoskins • Laura LeDoux • Dan Miller • Mitch Pittman • Karen Povey • Sue Raney • Julia Renouard • Ilona Rossman
Christian Runge • Sunil Shah • Mark Stockwell • Bruce Tecklenburg • Margot Tsakonas



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

Join Us at Parkfest

Tickets Are Live

Join us on **Friday, November 6** from 5 – 8 PM at **The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center in Magnuson Park** for our third annual Parkfest, the biggest celebration and fundraiser of the year for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks!

Grab a friend for an evening of local bites, park-themed games, a raffle, and adventure-packed silent auction packages, plus the chance to meet park rangers and superintendents from all three parks. Best of all, every ticket helps fund critical projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

Get your tickets now at wnpf.org/tickets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

OCT. WEEKENDS & HALLOWEEN

Nightfall Charity Haunt

Join us in West Seattle! Details & dates: nightfallhalloween.com

A Haunt for Good: Nightfall donates a portion of its season proceeds to WNPf and the West Seattle Food Bank.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month

Details: wnpf.org/NAHM

FRIDAY, NOV. 6

Parkfest: A Night to Give Back to the Parks

Our 3rd annual fundraising event you won't want to miss! Details: wnpf.org/parkfest

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

Giving Tuesday

Support the parks on this nationwide day of giving. wnpf.org/giving-tuesday

COMING UP IN 2027

Park Volunteer Days

Friends at Airbnb are supporting two in-park volunteer days in 2027. Details: wnpf.org/volunteering

Airbnb Is Backing the Parks:

In addition to their generous grant, Airbnb is supporting Washington's national parks by encouraging volunteers to step up for the parks, offering a \$100 Airbnb credit to those who join us at two upcoming volunteer days (while supplies last). Thank you for helping steward these places!

New Friends of the Fund

As the seasons turn, we're delighted to welcome a few new friends to the fold — proof that support for the parks comes in all shapes, sizes, and (in one case) ciders! Each of these partners weaves park support into something you can enjoy or gift:

- **Incline Cider House** raises a glass to the parks as a corporate partner and proud sponsor of this year's Parkfest.
- **Harrelson Handcrafted** crafts nature-inspired home goods from Maple Falls, Washington, and gives back a portion of every purchase.
- **Park Print Club** delivers fine art park prints to your door, donating 10% of profits from its Mount Rainier collection.

With the holiday season right around the corner, now's a great time to find a gift that gives back to the parks. See the list of businesses that give back at wnpf.org/shop.



Who doesn't love getting something fun in the mail? A Park Print Club subscription is a great present for a snail mail-loving park lover.



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