

## **Hiking, Urban Walks, & Backpacking Summit Minutes**

January 8, 2022

9:00-3:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### [2021 Summit Minutes](#)

**Facilitator:** Andy Bassett

**Attendees:** Peter Hendrickson, Nancy Tempkin, Christine Grenier, Cheryl Talbert, Andy Zavada, Shiela Reynolds, Steve Payne, Eric Henry, Rob Erickson, Liz McNett Crowl, Bob Keranen, Nancy Lloyd, Michael Arriaga, David Bradley, Lara Linde, Marilyn Thompson, Carlanna Livingstone, Monty Pratt, Stacey Lissit

### **Welcome & Introduction (9-9:15am)**

- Around the room

### **Branch Program Updates (9:15-10:00pm)**

- Overview of each branch's challenges and priorities
- **Bellingham:**
  - Successes: Weekly day hikes in the evenings, started low attendance and starting to pick up. Started conditioning series that is continuing this year. Potential for new leadership opportunities for hike leaders.
  - Challenges: Finding new folks to take up leadership positions. Getting more folks out on hikes. Looking for opportunities for building diversity in Bellingham
- **Olympia:**
  - Successes: In addition to hiking and backpacking had several zoom clinics. Did a backpacking class and a mini first aid clinic. CHS as well, very successful, successful youth programs
  - Challenges:
- **Tacoma:**
  - Successes: Very successful year growing membership in programs. Lisa stepped down recruiting Marilyn who is expanding leadership roles in the committee. New leader for hike leader seminars, managing website, and social. Balanced more of the workload for the committee. Running a geology with rocks course. Partnering with Craig Romano. Committee is growing. (has job descriptions for all new roles)
  - Challenges: struggling to find backpacking leaders.
- **Kitsap:**
  - Successes: Looking for equivalency and mentoring process to find new leaders. Looking to grow the Urban Walks program. Parents wanting to bring kids on hikes as well. Looking to rebuild program over the next few years. Finding ways to bring on new volunteers.

- Challenges: Lost of leaders, but are leading other program types. Building a program that nearly collapsed
- **Seattle:**
  - Successes: Good year of ramping back up, new vice chair, and a safety chair. In 2021 new hike leader seminars totally 53 folks 17 earned their badge. Had an intro to hiking course over zoom, based on an increase in SARS calls. CHS was good smaller group, 65% graduated. Will open back up to 100 this coming year. Hike leader appreciation party soon. 35 hike leaders signed up for CHS. Might lower numbers if needed for CHS. Waiting to see what COVID does. Smaller group sizes due to COVID, with positive feedback from students. Walking the wild with foothills has been going on. In person Hike Leader Seminar in November looking to keep that going. 6 new folks in leadership. Upgrade tech for hybrid meetings. Urban walks is a priority for this year. Seattle and Foothills collaborations to start Urban Walks to try out new standards. Put together a sub committee to discuss issues. Urban Walk Safety seminars to reduce risks and provide safer programs. Risks on route, scared participants. Seattle Backpacking: 2021 relaunched backpacking program. Tremendous interest in backpacking in SEA 2 courses last year; basic backpacking 60 students with 21 instructors. Nutrition and cooking course to cook from home to be in person. Youth in backpacking postponed to hopefully this year, Foothills did this last year. Folks are encouraged to come up with new ideas for activities and course types. Building a new Intermediate Backpacking Program, Coastal and Shoulder Season Backpacking. Committee is forming well and all courses have a distinct leader, also thinking of succession plans. Completed the rollout of backpacking badges Developing a new backpack leader seminar. Increase advanced backpacking courses.
  - Challenges: Hike leader communication and motivation. Revisit and finalize WFR requirements. Reorganize basecamp page. Great momentum in the spring to the summer, and in July lost that due to the smoke and heat and the Delta surge, lead to cancel trips and hurt leader development. Everywhere we want to go is overcrowded, permit issues. Family Backpacking postponed. Leader process has some improvements. Increase resilience of programs in the PNW
- **Foothills:**
  - Successes: Launched “GO Hike” 64 students 24 graduated hope for 85 in 2022. Launched Urban walks. 54 hike leaders 23 new certified leaders. 9th year of backpack building blocks course. Finding ways for people to come into the program. Having small mentor groups for gear, conditioning, and trips. Learning more about how to manage these smaller groups, has lead to higher graduation groups. Backpacking with Kids course in conjunction with SEA. Valuable to have a combined committee, for good collaboration and crossover. Mix of leaders for all skills types in the committee. Added more structure to mentored trips. Conversations on managing requirement certifications. Partnering with SEA youth to certify Hike and Backpack leaders. Pleased with where “staying found” is going.

Coordinating with other committees to hold spots for WFR and Nav courses for leaders.

- Challenges: A lot of long waitlists and everything filling up, can be easy to miss out on spots, looking to offer more trips to spread out demand. Also a lot of last minute cancellations. These can be gateways programs for folks so trying to keep those open. Trying to increase participation in the committee. Working on a charter and to expand roles in the committee. Building relationships during COVID.

- **Everett:**

- Successes:
- Challenges:

### **Year Review w/ Data (10:00-10:10)**

### **Club-Wide Activity Standards Review (10:10-11:30)**

- [MINIMUM STANDARDS](#)
  - [Hiking Standards](#)
  - [Urban Walks Standards](#)
  - [Backpacking Standards](#)

### **Hiking, Urban Walk, & Backpack Council Charter (11:30 -1:30)**

- [Hiking, Urban Walks, and Backpacking Council Charter DRAFT - 2021](#)

### **LUNCH (12:00-12:30)**

### **Additional Comments (1:30-2:30)**

- Urban Walks wrap up and updates - Peter
- Modification to the Standards to clarify whether course field trips count towards the various trip requirements to become a trip leader - David
- Modification of the standards to add Basic Backpacking trip type - David
- Modification of the standards to update the description of the Basic Backpacking Skills badge - David
- Onboarding experienced leaders - Cheryl & Christine
- Leader badge consideration - Cheryl

Wilderness first Aid recertifications. When are folks looking for recertifications TAC does not require a recert. Proposal of a 50% discount for folks that are key or active leaders In TAC need to have all requirements met prior to being set up on a mentored hike.

What do refreshers look like and how often do we do that, coming up with specifics on this.

Having a hike/backpack specific WFA course.

### **Next Steps: (2:30-3:00)**

- Advanced backpacking subcommittee

- Urban Walks Activity Standards subcommittee
- Charter subcommittee

Next summit? Saturday January 7th, 2023.