***Volunteering with Washington Trails Association (WTA)***

Day Work Parties

WTA fields one-day work parties Tuesday through Sunday year-round in the Puget Sound area. We also have regularly scheduled work parties in Northwest Washington, Southwest Washington, the Olympics and Spokane. [Find a trail work party >>](http://vms.wta.org/?types=Day%20Work%20Party)

Volunteer Vacations

Give us a week. We'll make it great! On a week-long volunteer vacation, you'll get some important work done during the day and enjoy camp with fellow volunteers in the evening. Vacations are offered spring, summer and fall. [Learn more about volunteer vacations >>](http://www.wta.org/volunteer/volunteering/vacations/volunteer-vacation-ii)

Backcountry Response Teams (BCRTs)

BCRTs put the backpacking in trail maintenance, allowing volunteer crews to access trail maintenance needs further in the backcountry. Typically from 3 to 5 days in length, backcountry response teams are active spring, summer and fall. [Learn more about BCRTs >>](http://www.wta.org/volunteer/backcountry-response-team-trips)

***Volunteering with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)***

There are three simple steps to register for a project. First, submit an online [volunteer application](https://www.pcta.org/volunteer/volunteer-application/) if you have not filled one out before. Next, check out the [project schedule](http://www.pcta.org/volunteer/project-schedule/) and find a project that you would like to attend. Third, register for the project! The person to contact will vary between projects. Check out the project description to determine who to contact.

***Volunteer at a Washington Coast Savers Beach Cleanup Event!***

Volunteer to help get marine debris off our beaches. You can help with beach cleanup or with running the volunteer check-in tables at each beach; transporting collected debris to local dump sites; or with holding after-cleanup BBQ celebrations. <www.coastsavers.org>

***Ocean Conservancy***

Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Join the world’s largest volunteer effort for our ocean and waterways by participating in the International Coastal Cleanup. Worldwide work parties/events can be found at [this link](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/sign-up-to-clean-up.html?gclid=Cj0KEQjw2sO3BRD49-zdzfb8iLwBEiQAFZgZfM62InLgMQkX5ciLyXO30XFP7Qo9hWWI0evnwYEd8uQaAhSI8P8HAQ).

***American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations ($275-325 plus travel)***

Volunteer Vacations are a series of week-long trail building projects on America’s public lands. Each crew consists of 6-15 volunteers accompanied by a crew leader. Trips involve backpacking or day hiking and accommodations vary from primitive campsites to bunkhouses or cabins. Tools and supervision are provided by the host agency or organization. More than a program that rehabilitates trails, Volunteer Vacations fosters public land stewardship and provides volunteers the opportunity to give back to the trails they love, meet new people, and have a great time doing it! <http://volunteervacations.americanhiking.org/em-volunteer-vacations/>

***Or look for Stewardship events on the Mountaineers website at*** https://www.mountaineers.org/conserve/explore/activities#b\_start=0&c4=Stewardship

***Common Questions about Volunteer Trail Maintenance***

***What does a trail crew do?***

Trail crews are a vital component in building, maintaining, and protecting trails. Each year these crews, along with staff, take out new and seasoned volunteers to conduct trail work. Projects are dependent on the needs of the trail in that area. Trail work may include:

* Cutting and removing fallen trees to clear the trail corridor
* Maintaining and constructing structures such as rock walls, steps, or bridges
* Clearing overgrown vegetation on the trail
* Maintaining and improving the trail tread

***How much experience do I need?***

**None**, other than the experience to pack and carry your own personal gear 3-8 miles to the crew’s basecamp (in the case of extended trips). We work hard to teach our volunteers the joy of trail maintenance. We hope by investing our time in teaching you trail maintenance you'll come back and join us again. Our work party rules are followed in this order:
1) Be safe! 2) Have fun! 3) Get some work done!

***Is working on a trail crew hard work?***

Tasks will vary in their degree of intensity but it can be demanding work. Volunteers need to be prepared to hike to and from a project site while carrying tools and their personal gear. Some projects may take place at a trailhead but other frontcountry projects may require volunteers to hike up to 5 miles or more each day. Each project description lists the tasks and the fitness level required. If you are unsure or concerned about the fitness level required, please [contact us](https://www.pcta.org/about-us/contact-us/) and we can help direct you to an appropriate project that fits your needs and abilities.

***What should I wear? What should I bring?***

All volunteers should wear a sturdy pair of boots (no tennis shoes!), long pants and work gloves. It's recommended that you wear a long-sleeve shirt and eye protection (such as glasses, sunglasses or safety glasses) too. In addition, bring rain gear, extra warm clothing, water and your lunch and snacks in a pack.

***How do I get B3 credit for my Trail Maintenance work?***

When your trail maintenance project is done, send Cheryl an email at *cascadehiker@earthlink.net* to report the date(s) of your project, what work you did, the organization you did it for and your crew leader’s name/contact information. If the trip also meets the requirements you may also be able to get credit for one of your B3 backpack trips!

**More questions? Contact Denise Crafton at *buffmtwoman@yahoo.com.***