

Contributors' Guidelines

Washington Trails magazine is a volunteer-driven magazine and welcomes submissions of articles, hiking reports and photographs.

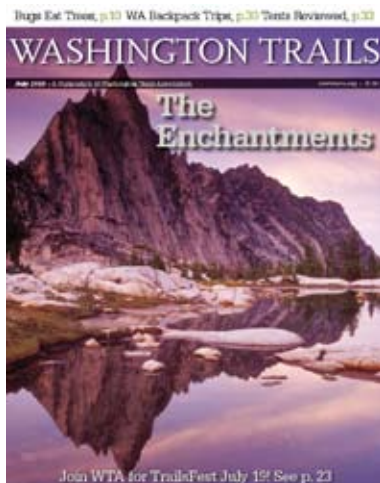
Washington Trails is a regional outdoors magazine published ten times a year by Washington Trails Association, a non-profit trail-advocacy organization. More info can be found at www.wta.org. *Washington Trails* is a lively, opinionated, and informative magazine for active outdoor enthusiasts. We publish articles for hikers, backpackers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers in Washington state.

Washington Trails is a grassroots magazine, and most of the features and photography are created by volunteer writers and photographers.



FEATURE ARTICLES

We publish well-written, original articles on all aspects of hiking and active outdoor recreation: habitat and natural resource preservation, wilderness



legislation, photography, nature study, low-impact wilderness travel, etc. In particular, we look for solid pieces on hiking destinations in Washington state. We generally publish two to four full-length features (1,000 to 3,000 words) in each issue. These can be non-fiction personal accounts, how-to articles, profiles of hiking destinations, or natural history essays.

Our Northwest Explorer section features profiles of overnight hiking destinations, generally in Washington state. (In the winter, we sometimes cover destinations farther afield.) These articles run from 1,000-2,000 words and give readers a feel for the destination: what flora and fauna you'll see there, where good camps are, what the views are like—in essence, why would

someone backpack there? E-mail editor@wta.org to propose an idea.

DEPARTMENTS

In addition to features, we also have several shorter departments in the magazine. The Hiking News, Action for Trails and Membership News sections are generally written by WTA staff. Articles on WTA's trail maintenance program are written by staff or volunteers involved in WTA's trail work program. E-mail editor@wta.org for more details.

There are many sections where volunteer writers regularly contribute. Nature on Trail articles are 500-word profiles of a plant or animal commonly seen on Washington Trails. Youth and Families are 500-word articles on tips for hiking with children or families. It's best to e-mail a proposal for an article to see if your idea fits our current editorial needs. Book and gear reviews are generally assigned to volunteer writers we have worked with in the past. E-mail editor@wta.org for more details.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A great place to break in to writing for *Washington Trails* is our back-of-the-magazine essay page called A Walk on the Wild Side. These essays run 500-600 words and offer an introspective look at hiking or active outdoor recreation. They can be humorous, philosophical or personal. Send your completed essay to editor@wta.org.

WTA TRIP REPORTS & HIKING GUIDE

One of the most popular features of WTA's website is our user-generated trip report section. This is where hikers report on conditions encountered on trail. These can be submitted online at www.wta.org. In each issue of the magazine, we select a sampling of recent trip reports submitted online. WTA also has an online Hiking Guide, which details the what-and-where of a trail: how to get there, hiking distance, elevation gain, etc. Hiking guide entries can be submitted online at www.wta.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

For most features and Northwest Explorer, you can either send an article proposal or the completed article. For departments, it's best to send an article proposal to ensure your idea meets our current editorial needs. For A Walk on the Wild Side, please submit a completed essay. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for a response to all articles and article proposals. E-mail submissions are preferred to mail. Please send article ideas or completed articles to editor@wta.org. Attachments should be sent either as Microsoft Word or rtf (rich text file) documents. Submissions by mail may be sent to:

Andrew Engelson, Editor
Washington Trails Magazine
2019 Third Ave., Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98121

RATES

Due to the non-profit nature of Washington Trails Association, the magazine budget is extremely limited and payment for submissions is not an option. Almost all published work is donated. Although there is little or no monetary reward, accepted writers receive great public exposure and a complimentary copy of the magazine. For major contributions or repeat contributions, we occasionally offer complimentary one-year magazine subscriptions.

PHOTO GUIDELINES

We typically use 15-25 pieces of black & white art (photos and/or line art) and one color cover photo per issue. All art must feature the outdoors of Washington state, and we prefer dramatic landscapes that prominently feature people hiking or enjoying the outdoors.

The interior of *Washington Trails* magazine is predominantly printed in grayscale, so please keep this in mind when submitting photos (files can be submitted in color but will be converted to grayscale). We occasionally publish color inserts in the magazine, but most of the photo published are assigned to photographers have worked with. Cover photos are printed in full color and are generally of a vertical orientation, or horizontals that can be cropped to vertical, 9 inches x 11 inches. Digital files are preferred (TIFF or JPEG), with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Because these files are large, it's best to send images on a CD or DVD by mail. Slides and high-quality prints are also acceptable. E-mail editor@wta.org to inquire about editorial needs before sending photos.

At this time, *Washington Trails* does not have the resources to pay its photo contributors. However, publication in *Washington Trails* is a great way to start building your portfolio. All photo contributors are given at least one sample copy of their published work. Contributors whose photos are used on our cover are also given a complimentary one-year subscription to *Washington Trails*.

VOLUNTEER WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER POOL

Washington Trails is created largely by volunteers. We occasionally update volunteer writers and photographers about our current editorial needs through an e-mail list. If you're interested in being added to this list, please contact editor@wta.org.

EDITORIAL INTERNSHIPS

Washington Trails offers 3-month unpaid internships to students and volunteers interested in learning more about writing and editing a magazine for a nonprofit organization. Contact editor@wta.org for more details.

TIPS FOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

The best way to know how to write for *Washington Trails* is to regularly read the magazine; you can subscribe online at www.wta.org or read a selection of articles published online. Generally it's a good idea to email article ideas in advance of writing your article to editor@wta.org. If you have previously published articles, a link to or copy of the article is helpful to give us a sense of your writing style and abilities. The best places to break into the magazine are A Walk on the Wild Side and Northwest Explorer features.