



NEWS RELEASE

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Get Out, Give Back: Washington Trails Association Celebrates 21st Annual Hike-a-Thon

SEATTLE — August 1st kicks off Washington Trails Association's (WTA) 21st annual Hike-a-Thon. Throughout the month of August, Hike-a-Thoners will hike, walk, run and backpack to raise funds that directly support WTA and their work on Washington's trails.

It's free to participate, and open to anyone regardless of age or hiking experience. Anyone who raises \$35 or more receives a t-shirt. Participants can join individually or as a team, and can raise donations by sharing their customized fundraising page with friends, family or anyone else wanting to support trails in Washington. There are giveaways throughout the event and participants can also earn cumulative prizes for the amount of money they raise.

Rheanna Summers, a Hike-a-Thon participant since 2017, said "I believe the state of Washington is one of the best states to hike in the entire country. This isn't just because of the presence of the amazing Cascade Range or the Olympic Peninsula, but because we have a well maintained network of trails and a thorough online guide regarding where to hike and what the current conditions are for each hike. Washington Trails Association is what makes all of this possible."

In 2023, Hike-a-Thon participants raised \$244,755.78 for trails, setting a Hike-a-Thon record. Help them beat that goal by signing up and getting outside at least once in August. Register any time in July or August at: go.wta.org/3L2l6cPt. WTA is excited to welcome all participants to Hike-a-Thon this year.

"I love this unique fundraiser because it enables our community to support WTA while doing what we love: Spending time outdoors!" WTA's CEO Jaime Loucky said. "I can't think of a better example of hikers coming together to give back to trails."

About Washington Trails Association

Washington Trails Association (WTA) is the nation's largest state-based hiking and trail-maintenance nonprofit. Our mission is to mobilize hikers and everyone who loves the outdoors to explore, steward and champion trails and public lands. We have a nearly 60-year legacy of engaging the hiking community to ensure Washington's trails stand the test of time. With more than 26,000 members and an online community of over 300,000 and growing, we are connecting people to the outdoors — from everyday adventures to backcountry explorations. Each year, 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state. We mobilize hikers as public lands advocates, trail stewards, and on-the-ground experts sharing knowledge with fellow hikers. WTA's strength is our community and our vision depends on fostering an inclusive organization where everyone feels welcome and represented. Together we can ensure there are trails for everyone, forever. Learn more at www.wta.org.