

VIVA THE VOLUNTEER

Volunteer: Webster's Dictionary—"one who enters into or offers himself for a service of his own free will" A small word that has big effects in our community. They are firefighters, social workers, gardeners, political activist, and conservationist. To be a volunteer is to be an American. The following essay explores this topic which is so important to our organization. We have a long list of things to be thankful for in this season of Thanksgiving, but right at the top of the list is our volunteers and supporters.

The Dishman Hills Association runs on volunteers and donations, and has since its inception 45 years ago. There are many type of freewill services in the mix, and a variety of terms are often attached to "volunteer", such as altruistic, special interest, unemployed, generous, idealistic, or just lonely. They come in all sizes, types, and offer a wide spectrum of personal tributes including time, ideas, donations, professional skills, and materials too numerous to list.

There are, however, some common threads. All are concerned with issues of great personal importance that transcend the daily demands of job, family, and paying the bills. We humans seem to be hardwired with the concept of mission, the common good, and social order. Volunteers are actively supporting something they think needs to be done.

Volunteerism serves to remove many of the barriers that lie between someone's vision and reality. One can act independently to fix, accomplish, support, and initiate actions that normally would be greatly slowed (or stopped) by economics, bureaucracy, or social position. Often when one volunteers to support a project, it's a chance to see a project done "your way", an increasingly rare item in modern times.

Being a volunteer can be fun. There is a deep satisfaction in seeing something happen that increases the quality of life in our community. Appreciation usually follows participation, and it's a rewarding feeling that an individual can still make a difference. It's fun to work with a like-minded team, for volunteers rarely work alone. There is an opportunity to experience a multitude of tasks in a wide variety of situations outside one's daily routine.

Lastly, much of what we are is what we do. To volunteer is chance to grow, become better, happier, and more complete as a person, and often, free "donuts" and coffee comes with most jobs. Thank you one and all for being volunteers and supporters!

↓ Check out the new format below ↓

NEW PARKING



As a part of Spokane County's plan on how to handle winter parking on the North side of the Natural Area at Camp Caro, they have built a new stone-lined parking lot on the corner of Appleway and Sargent in an open field. They figure that hikers can park here and hike to trailheads at Camp Caro, where the lot is closed behind a locked gate. The County does not want to expend resources keeping Camp Caro open during the snowy months when the unheated cabin there is closed. This lot being right next to Appleway should provide safe and easy access for Natural Area users during the winter months. The grassy lot is owned by County Parks and Recreation, and is a filled and capped waste dump that was obtained for right-of-way when Appleway was build several years ago .

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be not be until January 18th since we are busy during the holidays. The January meeting will be our annual membership meeting. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our October donors that have consented to be listed: Nancy Cashon, Joseph Collins, Stanley & Bernice Fahlgren Fund, George & Lila Girvin, Jim & Sheila Harless, Jeff Lambert, Patrick Lettenmaier, Kerry Masters, Patti Muncy, Spokane Valley Business Association, Helen Stowell, and two anonymous donor. Thanks for Giving!

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
Can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*
Margaret Mead

YES, I want to help protect our natural areas in the Spokane Region

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

\$ 15* \$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100 Other _____ * annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: _____

Name: _____ Acc. No. (see address) _____ Please don't list me as a donor

Please return this form along with your check payable to DHNAA

I would like to receive my Lights & Shadows online My email address is: _____