

May 10, 2025

Skagit Trail Builders Advisory Committee Meeting

Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Advisory Committee Chair

29 Volunteers in attendance

McIntyre Scholarship Awardees - Jenny

Congratulations to our Youth Leaders, **Sativia Espinoza and Alex Ruiz-Talbot**, on being awarded the [Sidney S. McIntyre Sr. Memorial Scholarship!](#)

This four-year, full-ride “last-dollar-in” scholarship covers the difference between other funding and student need, including tuition, course fees, and on-campus housing.

Sativia is heading to [Western Washington University](#), with a plan to transfer to the University of Washington where they have a program that supports her goal of becoming a meteorologist.

Alex will also be attending Western Washington University, where he aims to become a history teacher for grades 7-12.

Q: How many scholarships were awarded?

Sativia: I think just 2.

Comments: Wow! It’s amazing that both scholarships went to STB’s youth leaders!

Applause and calls of “congrats” from the group.

Youth Leader Internship Application for 2025-2026 - Jenny

With Sativia and Alex headed off for college, it’s time for us to recruit a new set of youth leaders. We’ve had enough interest and questions from students that we are opening up an official application process this year. The draft is with United General right now, so we don’t have an exact release date, but we intend to get it out before the school year is done.

For students who are interested, we have a contact form set up on our website so they can get on our list to receive notification when it is ready.

Q from Bret Turner: How has it been advertised? Who would know about it to ask?

Jenny: Word of mouth. Students who know Sativa, Shylee, and Alex have asked. We haven’t really advertised it because we don’t have the approved application form back from United yet, but I did put a link in the last social post and e-news to the contact form.

Bret: I would like to share with my VIV (Varsity in Volunteerism) kids. What information can I share immediately?

Jenny: You can share the contact link that is posted on the home page of our website. The basics of qualification are: 1) going to high school or college in Skagit County, 2) ages 15-21, 3) able to attend our Saturday sessions 8am-4:15 pm, 4) there is a stipend of \$299.50 for the Sept-June build year, 5) we can help with gear, if needed. For example, we purchased boots for last year's interns.

Wind Phone Update - JT

The site is ready for bench, phone and signage installation. JT is working on the bench and a protective box for the phone. JT is waiting for the ancient bandsaw in the Port shop to be repaired and the wood to dry out. He says it may not be done by the end of June, but definitely by the ribbon cutting in Sept.

Questions/comments/thoughts from the volunteer crew?

Zoe: Do you know about the encampment on Hansen Creek (near Dean's trail)? It looks like a tent was there for a while. There is a bunch of clothing that was left. Should we go clean it up?

JT: It's been reported to the Park's Dept. We don't want volunteers to clean it up because there might be hazards, like needles, that would endanger them. The Park crew is set-up for those circumstances.

Robert: Has there been any more news about putting up signage on the trail? Like marking the trail crossings?

Jenny: Paul, JT, and I proposed a way-finding signage plan to the Parks Dept for just our trails, but expressed our hope that they would consider our ideas for the entire park. They received it positively, but didn't share any specifics. Joseph told me he will take care of way-finding signage and that he liked the idea of the directional signage at intersections. They are going to install a map kiosk at the Elk Trail Head. There might be another at the Dovetail Bridge, likely on the Port side.

End of Year BBQ June 28 – Jenny

Our last work party of the build year is on June 28. We'll have volunteers from the Mountaineers Go Hike course, bringing our number up to about 50 people for the day.

We would like to celebrate the end of a successful build year and completion of our project on Park property with a BBQ at the trailhead.

But first, we want to get the group's vote on a BBQ at the trailhead versus the big room at the Bull Pen. What do you think?

Answer: Unanimous support for a trail head BBQ

Discussion:

Jenny: Remember, at the trailhead we can't have beer.

Jerry: We can go for beers after. (Lots of laughter)

Jenny: I can't host on my own. I need a few people to help.

Jeremy, Paul, and Bret offered to help

Jenny: Great. Thanks, all! I'll put together an email for us to work out the details

Paul: I have two big coolers to keep burgers and salads cold all day. And my wife would bake.

JT: We want to keep it pretty simple to reduce any health hazards. So, we are thinking of hotdogs, or rather, those Polish Sausages from Costco. We'll have a vegan option as well. Probably not salads, but watermelon or other fruit that doesn't need refrigeration. Chips, that kind of thing.

Jenny: We also have a big cooler and a camp grill that we'll provide. Anna MacKinnon isn't interested in helping with the food part, but she is already planning a game with prizes. I need pre-party help with things like collecting the pricing for a requisition form and storing the food at someone's house and then having them bring it in to the trail head.

JT: If there isn't a burn ban, we'll have the firepit going.

Ellie: Oh gosh! We'll be gone on June 28. Can we do a BBQ in Sept to celebrate the beginning of the build year?

Jenny: That's something we can think about.

Tonight's Planning Meeting, 4:30 pm, Bull Pen: Headcount 15