



2026 Washington State Trails Coalition Trail Awards Program

The Washington State Trails Coalition is pleased to open nominations for the fourth Washington State Trail Awards. These biennial awards recognize the efforts and achievements of exceptional individuals, organizations, and land managers who are working to make Washington's trails the best in the nation.

Winners will be announced at the 2026 Trail Awards reception in Wenatchee, WA on the evening of Thursday, October 8, 2026.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Lifetime Service Award: This award honors an individual who has shown longstanding and exceptional service to the trails of Washington State and their users. Areas of impact may include advocacy, planning, community engagement, construction/maintenance, and education.

Trail Leader Award: Honors an individual, organization, or land manager who has made a significant and positive contribution to any aspect of Washington trails over the past two years.

Emerging Leader Award: This award honors an emerging leader who has distinguished themselves with a significant, positive contribution to any aspect of Washington trails over the last two years. Special consideration is given for exceptional community service with a direct and specific benefit to youth outdoor recreation, fostering youth stewardship, or the use of trails by youth. Nominations will be considered for individuals who were under 30 years of age at the time of the contribution and for programs/organizations that are primarily composed of, or led by, youth or adults under age 30.

Outstanding Trail Award: The award recognizes a trail project that has demonstrated some or all of the following over the past five years: exceptional planning, design, and implementation, public participation, creative funding, verified economic impact, outstanding user experience, and benefit to the local community. Nominations will be accepted from any individual, organization, or government entity involved with, or directly impacted by the trail.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- For the Trail Leader and Emerging Leader Award, nominations must be for performance during the period of January 2024 through June 30, 2026, and the written narrative must clearly indicate dates of performance.
- Nominations must be received by WSTC by August 30, 2026.
- One award category per nomination and only one nomination per submission.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- The WSTC Board of Directors shall have sole authority in determining award recipients.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the nomination form.
2. Include a .docx file, 750 word maximum with no graphics, which clearly presents the exceptional values of the individual or organization for which the nomination is submitted. This narrative should align with the criteria for the appropriate category.
3. Provide two or three high resolution digital photos directly related to the award category and suitable for enlargement (1MB or higher each, 300 dpi minimum).
4. Submit your nomination with all materials electronically to info@watrails.org, only one nomination per email. If you wish to submit more than one nomination, please send each in separate emails. If materials exceed 10MB provide a link for downloading the files as larger emails may be rejected by servers.

Please send any questions about awards to info@watrails.org



2026 Washington State Trails Coalition Award Nomination Form

Award category (select only one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Service Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Leader Award
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Leader Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Trail Award

Nominee

Nominee name (person or organization):		
Contact name (if different):	Title:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	
Website:		

Nominated by

Name:	Title:	
Representing (optional):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	
Website:		

Submission checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Award nomination form (this sheet)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nomination narrative in .docx format
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo 3	