

Friends of Badger Mountain Membership/Donor Form



We are delighted you have decided to join us in our mission: the preservation and stewardship of the ridges of the Lower Columbia Basin for the benefit of the community and the environment. We encourage you to attend the Friends of Badger Mountain annual meeting and celebration, lend a hand in trail maintenance, participate in activities to involve young people in our mission and support the setting aside of additional land for public access and enjoyment. Find information on trails, news and special events at www.friendsofbadger.org.

Sign Me Up!

Member/Donor Benefits

Your voice heard on issues of trail-building, maintenance and other matters of interest.

FOBM's Quarterly e-Newsletter

Invitation to FoBM's annual celebration and membership meeting

Election of Board of Directors

Notices about guided hikes and other special events, including:

- I-MAC New Year's Day hike
- Badger Mountain Challenge: 15K, 50K, 50 & 100 mile races
- Wildflower walks & habitat restoration
- Fun Fit & Over Fifty weekly hikes
- Chinook Bicycle Club Time Trials
- YMCA "Trick or Treat on the Trail"
- Student projects
- "Hike Wine Dines"
- Equinox, solstice and full-moon hikes

Membership year is Jan. 1-Dec. 31. (Questions? Ask treasurer@friendsofbadger.org)

Membership levels: Individual \$20 Family \$30

I'd like to make an additional donation: Townsend's Squirrel \$50 Jack Rabbit \$100
 Coyote \$500 Badger \$1,000 Other \$_____

I'd like to make a donation but not become a member \$_____.

To donate by credit card, go to: www.friendsofbadger.org



All dues and donations are used to support the mission of Friends of Badger Mountain, an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID # 84-1702655.

If you give through United Way, you can designate to FoBM. For information on special tribute or memorial donations, please see Memorials on our website or contact us directly.

Please print clearly.

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We could use help in these areas (please check):

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Weeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |

Comments: _____

Send this completed form and your dues and/or donation to:

Friends of Badger Mountain, P.O. Box 24, Richland, WA 99352

To join and give online and for more information: www.friendsofbadger.org or call 509-783-6558

Friends of Badger Mountain

History. In **January 2003**, Friends of Badger Mountain was founded by a group of area residents dedicated to preserving and maintaining the ridges and special natural habitat in the Mid-Columbia region for the benefit of the public and our environment. We are **an all-volunteer organization with 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status (Tax ID # 84-1702655)**. Membership fees and donations support trail work, special projects to increase enjoyment and stewardship of the mountains, and our very important efforts to acquire and preserve ridge land and create additional open space vistas, habitats and preserves.

Success to Date. In 2004-5, FOBM raised the money to acquire 574 acres of Badger Mountain. In June 2005, by prior arrangement with Benton County we ceded the land to the County who named it the Badger Mt Centennial Preserve. In 2010-11 we acquired 73 new acres, bringing the total land in the **Badger Mt Preserve to 647 acres!** In 2016-18 we acquired **199 acres** for \$1.2M to create the **Candy Mt Preserve!** In each case we ceded the land to Benton County. In 2020-23 we raised \$4.5M to acquire 86 acres of land to establish the new **Little Badger Mountain Preserve** under the jurisdiction of the City of Richland.

Stewardship. Adopting the role of steward of the mountain, FOBM organized the building of the **Canyon Trail** in 2005 for hikers only, the **Skyline Trail** in 2006 for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, in 2010 the **Sagebrush Trail** was built and the Skyline extended to create a loop with the Canyon, and in 2012 in a partnership with the City of Richland, Eagle Scouts, and area Rotary Clubs, the **Badger Flats Trail** was built in Trailhead Park. In 2014 we built the **Langdon Trail** winding for 2.4 miles along the south side of Badger. Fall 2016 with a great outpouring of volunteers we built the 1.7-mile **Candy Mt Trail** and added a loop trail in December. In spring 2018 we extended the Sagebrush Trail to the start of the Canyon. In 2023 we have started on a new 3-mile trail that will link Badger Mt to the western summit of Little Badger and beyond to the juncture of Morency Drive and Rachel Road. With the heavy use of the trails we organize trail building and maintenance every spring and fall. If you love the trails, help us keep them in good shape! Sign up with trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org.

We're working also to rid the ridges of invasive weeds. Sign up for this vital effort with weedmaster@friendsofbadger.org.

On the Badger Mt trails over **187,000** users were counted in 2012, the first year we counted. In 2022, over **320,000 users were counted** even though periodically our counters are disabled and when two hikers are walking side by side only one is counted. The Preserve is a magnet for many special events...wildflower walks; native plant restoration; Solstice, Equinox and full moon hikes; weekly hikes by Fun, Fit and Over Fifty; celebrations and fund raisers of all kinds. REI has been a strong financial and volunteer backer. CH2M, Bechtel Next Gen, Lamb Weston, Energy NW, LDS members, CUUC, Chinook Cycling Club, AmeriCorps, Tri-City Rotary clubs, WSU, Fun, Fit and Over Fifty, the Inter-Mountain Alpine Club and a host of other volunteers continue to contribute to trail building, maintenance and weeding. Thank you!

Outreach to Youth and the Public. The Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA sponsor hikes with special themes to attract kids and schools bring students to hike and learn about habitat. Taking part in 2023 the first time in the annual Salmon Summit we engaged 450 students and their teachers in learning about the special fauna, flora and habitat of the ridges. In 2020 we established the Candy Mtn Interpretive Trail which includes **signage** by the local Native Plant Society, **markers identifying geologic and flood features** by the local Ice Age Floods Institute and, in partnership with the National Park Service, who leads several hikes a year, **maps and monuments highlighting the Manhattan Project** and **Hanford history**. Our beautiful **wildflower brochure** attracts people of all ages to guided walks held every spring and a Native Plant Garden at the base of Badger provides a peaceful setting.

Health and Wellness. People of all ages and level of health use the mountain to maintain fitness and many groups organize hikes for team building. Chinook Bicycle Club sponsors a **Time Trials** event each fall attracting over 60 cyclists. The **Badger Mt Challenge** with a 15k hike and 50k, 50 and 100 mile races attracted 810 entrants in Spring 2024! The 14th Annual Challenge will be held the last weekend of March 2025.

Key Elements of our Strategic Plan 2013-2023. Mission and Values: the preservation & stewardship of the ridges for the benefit of the community and the environment -- guided by the vision to preserve and provide access to high value ecologic, scenic and topographic sites desired by the public. **Goals:** 1) Open Space Preservation & Access; 2) Stewardship of the Preserves and trails; 3) Organizational Capacity.

The Latest! Friends of Badger's vision is a **Ridges to Rivers Trail** connecting our four local ridges to local waterways. Carving out the Little Badger Preserve has been our most complex and challenging effort to date. Our plan is to add more land and create a route to Amon Creek. Heading west, we recently acquired 40 acres which will expand the Candy Mtn Preserve. The sales agreement with the former landowner granted an easement over two of his other Candy Mountain properties that will allow us to extend our trail from the summit to Kennedy Road. With the invaluable leadership of the **Red Mountain AVA** joining the 12-year effort spearheaded by Hedges Winery and FoBM the **Red Mt Vineyard Trail** is finally scheduled to open this November! One day working with partners we hope to create a route that will cross the Yakima River to Benton City. These efforts are exciting additions to our community's quality of life. We can only achieve these goals with your support. To become a member and to view progress on our current goals, go to friendsofbadger.org.

Be a part of our historic efforts. Help us achieve our Ridges to Rivers vision! Thank you!

May 2024