

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.

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

Sign Me Up!

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 \$ _____.

May we share your name as a member &/or donor with other members/donors? Yes ___ No ___

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 # 68-0480736.

If you give through United Way, 100% can be designated to FoBM. For information on special tribute or memorial donations, please 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"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal |
| <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. 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 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 we acquired **196 acres** for \$1.2 million **to create the Candy Mt Preserve!** In each case we ceded the land to Benton County.

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 horse back riding, in 2010 the **Sagebrush**, which extends the Skyline and creates a loop trail with the Canyon, and in 2012 in a partnership with the City of Richland, Eagle Scouts, and area Rotary Clubs, the **Badger Flats trail** built at the base of the Canyon. In 2014 we built the **Langdon Trail** winding at a 5-10% grade for 2.5 miles along the south side of Badger. Fall 2016 with a great outpouring of volunteers we built the new 1.8m **Candy Mt Trail** and added a loop trail at 5% grade in December. In spring 2018 we completed the long awaited Badger Mt **"step by-pass" trail**. With the heavy use of the trails we have a regular need for trail maintenance. Sign up with trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org.

On the Badger Mt trails over **187,000** users were counted in 2012 and over **217,000** in **2014**. Adding the Candy Mt trail **over 310,000** were counted in **2019** even though periodically our counters are disabled and when two are walking side by side only one person is counted. The Preserve is a magnet for many special events...wildflower walks; native plant restoration; Solstice, Equinox and full moon hikes; weddings; weekly hikes by Fun, Fit and Over Fifty; graduation rituals; celebrations; and fund raisers of all kinds. *REI* is always a strong financial and volunteer backer. *CH2M*, *Bechtel Next Gen*, *US Bank*, *Lamb Weston*, *WRP Speed*, *LDS members*, *Chinook Cycling Club*, *AmeriCorps*, *Tri-City Rotary clubs*, *WSU*, *Fun, Fit and Over Fifty*, *the Inter-Mt Alpine Club* and a host of other volunteers continue to contribute to trail building and maintenance. Thank you!

Outreach to Youth. Scout troops, church groups and *Juvenile Justice youth* guided by mentors help us maintain the trails. *Eagle Scouts* have created a number of improvements. A project coordinated by Gretchen Graber works with **Robert Frost Elementary** students to start sage seedlings in the spring and plant them on the ridges in the fall. The Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA sponsor hikes with special themes attracting kids and schools bring students to hike and learn about habitat. Botanists teach about soil, plants and human activity, biologists about the creatures and their habitats, geologists the Ice Age floods. Teachers integrate these activities into a hands-on curriculum and our beautiful wildflower brochure attracts people of all ages to our guided walks held every spring.

Health and Wellness. People of all ages and level of health use the mountain to maintain fitness. Companies thru the Regional Chamber "Good Health is Good Business" program challenge employees to hike Badger and Columbia Basin Racquet Club mounts a "Biggest Loser's Campaign" with climbing Badger as the measurement of success. Many groups organize hikes for team building. Chinook Bicycle Club sponsors a Time Trials event each fall attracting over 60 cyclists from the region. The **Badger Mt Challenge** with 15k 50k, 50 and 100 mile races and events attracted over 700 entrants in Spring 2019! The 10th Annual Challenge due to the virus will be rescheduled for March 2021 or as soon as it is safe.

Key Elements of our Strategic Plan 2013-2020. 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! FoBM is ready to create a new preserve and trail – the **Little Badger Mt Preserve and a 2.2 mile trail** linking Badger with the western crest of Little Badger! This is the next big step in our long term vision of a *Ridges to Rivers Trail* connecting our four local ridges to local waterways. Over 70% of the land has been purchased and 16% of the trail constructed. Now we need your help! To complete the preserve and the trail **we need to raise \$800,000 by Fall of 2021**. This is challenging at any time and in the time of Covid even more so. To donate, become a member and to view campaign progress, go to: <http://friendsofbadger.org/little-badger-mountain/>. The best we can say is that you will be thrilled at the land we have negotiated to preserve and the stunning views you will get all along the new trail route. We have also enhanced educational opportunities in the Candy Loop Trail, installing **signs identifying native plants** with the local Native Plant Society and **signs identifying flood features** with the local Ice Age Flood Institute. Making progress on other parts of our *vision*, Hedges Winery has built the first section of a trail of what will become the **Red Mt Vineyard Trail** with a route linking to the **Red Mt AVA** wineries! The new Preserve is an exciting addition to our community's quality of life. We can only achieve these goals with your support. **Be a part of this historic effort. Help us achieve our vision! Thank you!**