Hi {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

“Every job we do is worth doing. And every job worth doing is worth doing well.” Those were the words our Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) crew lived by during this year’s busy and fulfilling season.

One of the crew's proudest projects by far was the restoration and reopening of the Wahclella Falls trail. The 2.4-mile trail that was destroyed by the 2017 Eagle Creek fire was deemed a high priority to reopen due to its beauty and popularity. Personally, Wahclella Falls is the trail I always hike with out-of-town guests.

Working in tandem with the U.S. Forest Service, our SYEP crew restored the bulk of the trail in just one week. Using hand tools, they started at the trailhead, clearing vegetation, rocks, and trees. Because of the large scope of their work, forest crews were able to focus on more complex parts of the trail. I’m proud to say that the Wahclella Falls trail opened last month because of our crew!
Stories of Hope

Breakfast

September 27th
8-9am
Columbia Gorge Hotel

Seats still available for the most inspiring morning of your week!
Call 541-436-0304 to RSVP.

Cornhole for a Cause

October 26th
3pm
Gorge Athletic Club
The Dalles

Join us for a fun-filled, indoor, family-friendly Cornhole tournament! Sponsorships, adult division, and youth division available. Email justinez@nextdoorinc.org to register or learn more.

Besides the Wahclella Falls project, the SYEP crew worked tirelessly and proudly on countless other jobs throughout the Gorge:

- In Mosier, they thinned invasive vegetation from milkweed fields to bring monarch butterfly populations back to the Gorge.
- They re-graveled the U.S. Forest Service work station at Herman Creek.
- They restored and reopened the main connector trails between Multnomah Falls and Wahkeena Falls (the 419 and 420).
- They planted one mile of trees on a condemned logging road on Larch Mountain.
- They removed invasive blackberry bushes along the Herman Creek trail to provide access to an otherwise unreachable water source that can now be used for irrigation.
- They removed trash along the White Salmon River and learned all about protected wilderness areas.
- They worked with wildland firefighters to thin pine trees in a natural oak forest on Tracy Hill to allow the oak trees and other vegetation on the forest floor to grow and thrive.

I’m so proud of our SYEP crew! Their important work will have a lasting impact on the Gorge, its landscape, and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Hamada, MSW
Executive Director

Phone: 541-386-6665 | Click Here To Visit Our Website!