



## Shifting Gears Backpacking Leader Roles & Responsibilities

### About Shifting Gears

Shifting Gears is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Bellingham, WA, with a mission to create welcoming recreation experiences that encourage confidence, wellness, growth, and joy for all women. Striving to empower all women, our programs focus on breaking down barriers that stand in the way between a person and their outdoor aspirations.

### About Shifting Gears' Backpacking Program

Our Backpacking Program is designed to make individuals feel comfortable and empowered on hiking trails and overnight backpacking trips. For 2024, Shifting Gears will host two backpacking trips - one will be designed for a backpacking novice to learn the first steps of understanding backpacking; the second will be designed for intermediate backpacking individuals who are looking to learn new skills or work on expanding their abilities in the backpacking world. Either way, these all-women excursions promise fun! Both are designed for and led by women seeking new experiences, craving a deeper connection to nature and being interested in backpacking! Learn more about our Backpacking Program on our [website](#).

Our Intro to Backpacking trip will be June 1 - 2, 2024, and our Elevate Your Backpacking trip, designed for intermediate backpackers, will be August 3 - 4, 2024. Expect to leave Bellingham around 7am on Saturday and return around 5pm on Sunday. Each trip is a maximum of 10 individuals, with one trip leader and support volunteer.

### Responsibilities:

Shifting Gears Trip Leaders will support fun, inclusive, safe backpacking trips in Washington. As a Trip Leader, your role involves navigating the route safely, ensuring the group stays together, creating a fun and positive environment, providing teaching opportunities for backpacking, and supporting participants. Trip leaders ensure the hikes are no-drop and accommodate everyone's hiking pace.

The Trip Leader will also be asked to drive the Shifting Gears van with the participants to the trailhead. A support volunteer will drive separately as a backup emergency vehicle.

### Time Commitment

Leading at least one backpacking trip:

- June 1 - 2: Intro to Backpacking (Beginner)
- August 3 - 4: Elevate your Backpacking (Intermediate)

Attendance at the Backpacking Training is mandatory; the date is TBD.

**Qualifications:**

- Commitment to the Shifting Gears mission and values.
- Ability to hike at the same skill level as your group
- Passionate about outdoor recreation and fostering a welcoming environment for all women!
- A current Wilderness First Responder certification
- Previous experience with guiding backpacking trips or similar outdoor activities

**Volunteer Stipend:**

We want to support those who make our programs happen and the expertise they bring. While we are a small nonprofit organization, we pride ourselves on honoring the work and experience of our program leaders. Leaders will receive a volunteer stipend at the end of the season based on the number of trips led and can expect \$500 per trip.

*Please note that these are volunteer stipends, and Program Leaders are not considered Shifting Gears employees, but this is a small way for us to thank you for the time you spent supporting our programs!*

**How to Apply:**

Complete this [Application](#) by **April 19, 2024**

Thank you for wanting to support our community! If you have any questions, please contact our executive director, Krysy Keller, at [krysy@letsshiftgears.com](mailto:krysy@letsshiftgears.com).