



Shifting Gears Backpacking Volunteer 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 Volunteers will support fun, inclusive, safe backpacking trips in Washington. As a Volunteer, your role involves supporting the Trip Leader, ensuring the group stays together, creating a fun and positive environment, and supporting participants. Volunteers ensure the trips are no-drop and accommodate everyone's hiking pace.

Additionally, the volunteer may be asked to drive separately from the van to have an emergency backup vehicle available. If asked to drive, volunteers will receive travel reimbursement.

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!
- Knowledge of first aid is a plus!

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.