

Maps for Hikers on Tubbs Hill

Clayton Scott Wilde

Eagle Scout Project

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I've been visiting Tubbs Hill since before I can remember, so when it was time to pick an Eagle Scout Project, I asked the Friends of Tubbs Hill what was needed. They told me that hikers often get lost on the hill. This is obviously bad for hikers, but it also hurts the hill. In recent years, Tubbs Hill has a major tourist attraction, with between 2,000-4,000 visitors daily in the summer. Every time a hiker goes off the trail, it causes damage to the plant life that holds the ground together. Erosion has become a big problem.

That's why I decided to build and install four metal signposts on the hill to hold maps. I based the design off of an existing signpost by the East Entrance, and updated the map there, too.

Above: Choosing sign locations with Dave Yadon of the Tubbs Hill Foundation.



I started by asking for donations of metal from Pacific Steel, a local company that provided all the steel used in this project. They cut all the raw materials to the right shape and length, but we needed to drill holes to hold the maps before we could weld them. Gizmo, a maker's space located on the North Idaho College campus, provided me with equipment and guidance to machine the metal.

Left: Prepping steel at Gizmo.

With the metal prepared, I met with one of my assistant Scoutmasters, Laurence Dank. He showed me how to weld the pieces together. I'd never welded before, and it was one of my favorite parts of the entire project.

After welding the signs, Lake City Powder Coating generously donated powder black coating.



Above: Preparing to weld with Mr. Dank.

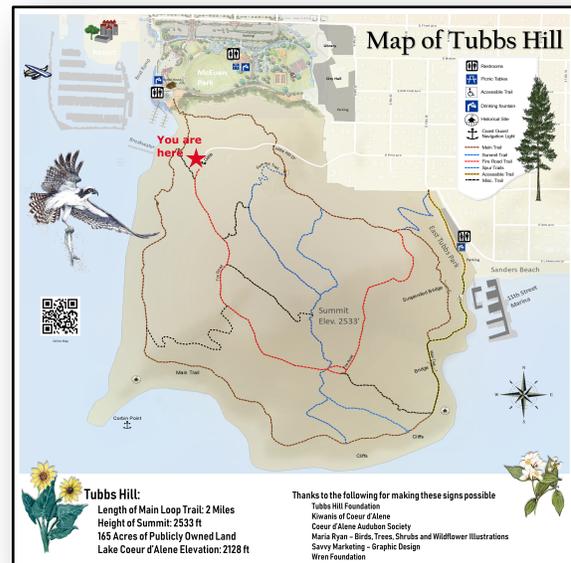


Left: grinding a weld.

While the stands were being coated, I ordered prints of the maps on metal plates from Costco. These would be installed on the stands using security bolts donated by Fastenall. They also provided security bits, which will be used by the city to update the maps in the future.

In addition to materials and manufacturing the signs themselves, I also needed to recruit volunteers to do the installation on the project work day. While it may seem fairly simple to set posts in cement, the location complicated things. Tubbs Hill forms a peninsula surrounded by Lake Coeur d'Alene. It is almost entirely rock, and had significant elevation differences between the prospective sign locations. Breaking bars and jackhammers are sometimes needed to break through rock on the

Right: one of the new project maps



hill. Additionally, supplies (including concrete) needed to be transported. Some of the locations were accessible using a fire road, but one required hauling concrete manually. The project would go lot faster if we had multiple work crews.

I knew that Scouts from Troop 202 would help, along with friends and family. I wasn't sure this would be enough people, though. Then I heard that the employees of Home Depot like to do service projects. They agreed to help. They also offered to donate cement and other supplies for the installation.

Top right: At Home Depot with Christine Cowin, who coordinated my partners with the store. Bottom right: Briefing the volunteers.



The project work day was Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022. I wasn't sure how many volunteers to expect, but estimated there might 20-25 people. My expectations were blown out of the water when 32 people showed up. I divided them into four work crews, and we assigned drivers to take people up and down the hill using the limited-access fire road. We started at 9 a.m., and by the time pizza had arrived at noon, all four sign posts had been set.



By early afternoon, most of the volunteers headed home. Some of the Scouts and I went around and bolted on the maps, checking to make sure we'd cleaned up after ourselves. Then I let the concrete set overnight before returning to trim the bolts the next day. More than 300 volunteer hours went into completing the project, and I'm deeply appreciative to everyone who donated or volunteered that day. I'll never forget this incredible experience.

MY THANKS TO:

Pacific Steel
Gizmo
Lake City Powder Coating
Fastenall
Home Depot, Coeur d'Alene
Home Depot, Liberty Lake
Thrivent for Lutherans
The employees of **Starbucks, Dominoes**
Pizza, and Safeway, for feeding the crew.



Clint Adams, for my first weld.
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Jessica Bryant, who taught me why Tubbs Hill is so important.
Christina Cowin, who not only recruited volunteers, but got them to bring their families, too.
Laurence and Sterling Dank, who taught me to weld and built the signs with me.
Chris Hallett, the Eagle who inspired me.
Wes Hallett, who always has that weird tool whose name you can't remember.
Scott Hallett, the original Scott
Sue Hallett, the Queen of Paperwork
Heather Hochstatter, my fairy Godmother.
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The Mack family, because you all showed up, too.
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Kirsten Pomerantz, who helped me hold my life together.
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David Wilde, who took me to my first Cub Scout meeting.
Mike Wood, who supported me through good times and bad.

Special thanks to:

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And, last but not least, **Barbara Hallett**, because words can't describe how much she did.
(at least, not words I can say here)