**Earlham Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Trips**

# Exploring Olympic - Choose Your Own Adventure

**Organized by:**   Henry Merrill, Faculty 1970-1980

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**Location**: Olympic National Park, Olympic Peninsula

**Dates**: Proposed: TH, July 29 – M, August 2, 2021

**Cost**: GROUP Camp fees will be about $2-5/night/person. Facilities are minimal: vault toilets, water available but will need to be hauled. However, it is located near the Sol Duc Campground and Resort where mineral hot springs and other amenities are available. Tent/RV Campground and resort lodging are more expensive.

**Difficulty**:

Level of fitness

| Easy (No sweat, no hurry) | Moderate (Active lifestyle) | Strenuous (Regular vigorous exercise) |
|---|---|---|

Experience level

| No experience necessary | Some experience with this type of trip | Significant experience required |
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The premise for this 4-day long weekend is chose your adventure from ONE of these options: 1/ EC Wilderness (ECW) alumni living in the Pacific NW (PNW) might find a long weekend a doable, family friendly event at beautiful Olympic National Park; or 2/ ECW alumni who need a reason to get to the PNW for a longer trip might easily build additional travel time to explore the Cascade Mountains, the San Juan Islands, Seattle, Victoria, B. C., Portland, OR, etc.; or 3/ ECW alumni who want to do a wilderness trip with like-minded trekkers should be experienced backpackers, in good physical condition and prepared to navigate on your own in bear country.

Target audience/kid-family friendly: Singles, couples, and families with children of any age. Individuals and/or families can plan together what to explore on a given day. Expected experience: Wilderness Pre-term (August Wilderness), SW Field Studies or Outdoor Ed trips and family camping experience sufficient. Interest in collaborative planning for day trips and creating our own short-term EC community will be appreciated.

**Itinerary**

Plan is to reserve Sol Duc Group Campground for TH, July 29 - M, August 2, 2021 - 4 nights. Minimum number needed: 10; maximum number: 24. Each person/group is responsible for getting to the Olympic National Park campground and bringing own equipment and food. If group members are interested, we can decide to join together for some pitch-in dinners and campfires. Individuals who want to share tenting with others will be connected to others so they can communicate and settle plans.

Other options to explore: 1/ You reserve a tent/RV campsite for whatever length of time desired at Sol Duc Campground and meet up with those at the Group Campground for shared day trips and shared dinners (if desired) and evening campfires.
2/ Sol Duc Resort has cottage and lodges accommodations for those not wanting to camp but do want to join in the day hikes, some dinners and campfires
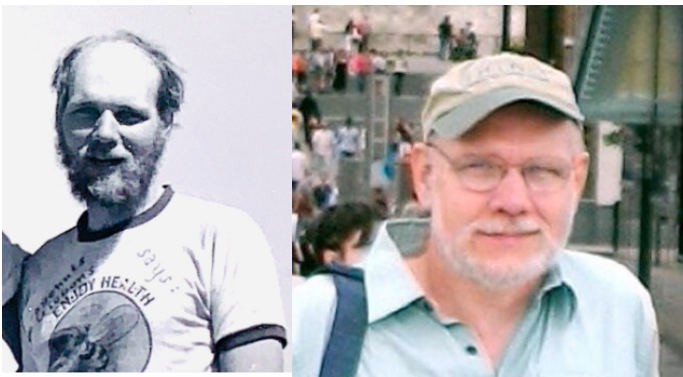
**Role of participants**
Participants will be expected to share suggestions and plan cooperatively with other participants in advance and during that long weekend. Outfitting will be the responsibility of each participants as individuals or family groups.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS TRIP, PLEASE CONTACT HENRY MERRILL BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 TO HAVE FIRST PRIORITY FOR GROUP CAMPGROUND RESERVATION PROCESS. AFTER SEPT. 30., I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE RESERVATIONS UNTIL THE MAXIMUM OF 24 IS REACHED.

**Biography of the organizer**
I (Henry Merrill) was a member of the Drama faculty from 1970-1980. I attended Minnesota Outward Bound School to prepare to design the Water Wilderness Pre-term in 1971-72 with Phil Shore, Margaret Lechner and Roger Eberhardt. I served as faculty instructor for the Water Pre-term in 1973, 1974 and 1980, and for the Mountain Pre-term in 1975. Since then, I have done family camping and canoeing in the Midwest and Southwest and co-led a Boy Scout 50-Miler canoe trip from Ely, MN into the BWCA. After leaving EC, I worked for Indiana University East and IUPUI in student development and adult/continuing education until retiring in 2010. We now live in the town of Pullman on the eastern border of Washington state.



Then                    and              Now(ish)!