Goldmyer Hot Springs - Youth Group Info & Directions

Owned and managed by Northwest Wilderness Programs, a Washington State 501c3 non-profit organization

Office Hours | Monday - Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

Phone | 206.789.5631

Website & Access Report | www. Goldmyer.org

**** Please distribute to all parents and chaperones. ****

ABOUT

Northwest Wilderness Programs strives to connect children with the natural environment to inspire, promote, and develop environmental appreciation and responsible stewardship. Goldmyer is a minimally developed wilderness area surrounded by Forest Service land (including Alpine Lakes Wilderness) and offers visitors access to old growth forest, waterfalls, and a crystal clear geothermal hot spring. Our stewardship policies, established in 1976, enable us to preserve the hot springs and surrounding property for today's visitors and future generations. All visitors are asked to follow our minimum impact rules.

Our Caretakers live on-site, do routine property checks and are available for any questions or concerns during your visit.

- The Goldmyer property is open in all weather conditions - rain, shine, or snow. Check **Weather Forecast** and the **Access Report** prior to your visit. Check-in hours are between 9:00am and 9:00pm.
- No Cellular and No Internet Service available in the Middle Fork Valley or on the Goldmyer property.
- A **Northwest Forest Pass or America the Beautiful Pass** is required to park at the trailhead.
- PROPERTY AMENITIES: bike rack, outhouse toilets (stocked with toilet paper and hand sanitizer), picnic tables, bear-safe food canisters, campsites with food canister hang-lines, and an open-sided cabana at the hot springs. We do not have or provide: changing rooms, towels, lockers, camping gear, food, or drinking water.

PERMITS

- **Permits are required and made over the phone during our office hours.** *Do not apply by lottery.*
- **Permits can be acquired up to one year in advance.** Dates requested with less than two months notice are subject to space availability.
- **Exclusive Use Permits are limited to:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays. Tuesdays, week-ends, and select holidays are not available for Youth Groups. Camping is not available on Mondays.
- Youth groups will have exclusive-use for ***most*** of their stay. (*See Check-in & Check-out for more details.*)
- **Only 2 exclusive-use groups are allowed per month. Each group is limited to 2 days per year.**
- **GROUP SIZE: no less 10 and no more than 24 people total.** We require a minimum of 1 adult chaperone for every 3-4 children. We do not allow more adults than children. Teenagers cannot be chaperones.
- **Families, groups of families, and college groups are not considered Youth Groups**. *These are subject to our standard permit policies and access fees.*
- **PRICING***:*
    - Non-profit organizations require no-fee and can visit free of charge, but donations are appreciated.
    - Commercial-based Youth Groups require a reduced fee: Day Use Visit: $300. Camping visit: $400.
    - *We reserve the right to verify your group's non-profit or business status.*

Youth Group permits are considered *pending* until we receive the following *3 weeks prior* to your visit date:

- Your organization's Certificate of Insurance (COI).
- A completed Youth Group Use Waiver. *This waiver will be sent to the Group leader.*

Email completed documents to the Goldmyer office at least 3 weeks prior to your visit date, otherwise, your permit will not be honored.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

- Hiking shoes or boots (waterproof recommended)
- Rain gear
- Warm layered clothing
- Filled water bottles
- Water filter
- Flashlight (even if not camping)
- Towel
- Food (even if not camping)
- Bathing suit
- First Aid Kit (carried with you)
- Camping stove and utensils
- Seasonal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, rain tarp)
- Emergency equipment and extra supplies in your vehicle
- Shovel, ax or saw (for snow/ tree debris) in your vehicle.

Refer to the "Ten Essentials of Mountaineering" and prepare appropriately for the season. Water can be filtered from rivers along the trail and by campsites. Consider bug-repellent applied to clothing instead of skin. Sunscreen may not be needed in the shaded forest environment. Products applied to your skin will be washed into the pools and environment.

WEATHER/ROAD/HIKING CONDITIONS

Goldmyer is at approximately 2,000 feet elevation and receives *twice the annual precipitation* of Seattle/Tacoma. Summers can be warmer than urban areas. Weather is variable between *October and May*: there can be occasional dry days, drizzle, heavy rain, flooding, unexpected snowfall, heavy/wet snow, or snowpack.

- **High clearance vehicles are necessary all year**. **All-wheel or 4-wheel drive is required during rain and snow seasons. Passenger cars are never suitable.** *Tow trucks are not always willing to drive into the Middle Fork Valley.*
- Snow-conditions may require tire chains for vehicles, and microspikes, snowshoes, and/or skis for hiking.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

The property opens at 9:00am and closes at 9:00pm. *Visitors arriving before 9:00am or after 9:00pm will not be allowed entry.* Ring the bell hanging on the wooden signpost by the cabin to notify the Caretakers of your arrival and departure.

CHECK-IN:

- Check-in is on the property *after* the hike. Groups should arrive together for Check-in.
- Exclusive use begins at 12:00pm-noon on your arrival day. Groups may arrive as early as 9:00am, but use of the hot springs and/or campsite availability could be delayed until the previous day's campers have checked out.
- Every adult in your group must submit a completed **liability waiver** at Check-in. *Digital copies not accepted.*
- Every attending child's name must be listed on one of the waivers (written on back if needed) so there is a record of who is present on our property.

CHECK-OUT:

- Day visitors: must Check-out and be hiking off property by 9:00pm.
- Campers: your group ***must be out of the hot springs by 9:00am*** and hiking off the property by 12:00pm-noon on your day of departure.

CAMPING

Goldmyer does not provide camping gear or sheltered sleeping accommodations.

- Camping is for the day of your arrival (not the night before).
- Campsites are best-suited for small backpacking tents. Hammocks may be accommodated at some sites.
- Food canisters are supplied at Check-in and each campsite has a hanging line for canisters. No cloth bags.
- Please camp within campsite boundaries.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- **Non-Profit Groups:** We ask that cancellations occur with ***at least 3 weeks' notice***.
- **For Commercial Groups:** If cancellation is given with ***at least 3 weeks' notice***, the fee minus a 25% cancellation fee will be refunded.
- Groups failing to arrive for their visit date(no-show) or cancelling with short notice will be put on probation affecting future permits.

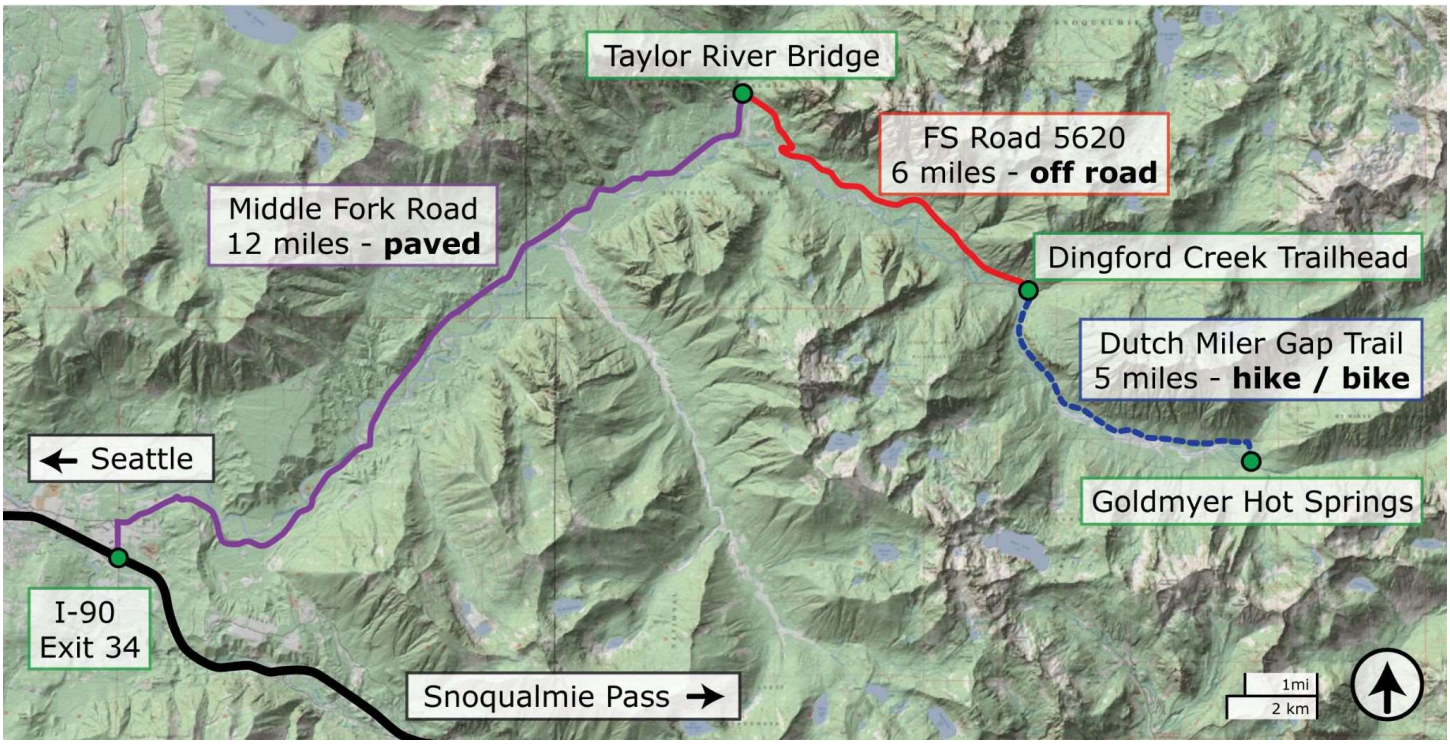
GOLDMYER PRIVATE PROPERTY USE RULES

Please follow these rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit for all.

Groups or individuals who do not follow these rules may be asked to leave with no refund.

- **Swimsuits are mandatory for all members of the Youth Group.**
- **Children must be supervised by an adult at ALL TIMES.** Please be watchful of children around the hot spring pool plugs.
- **Food & Garbage Handling is Critical. Leave No Trace.** Be tidy with all food - even crumbs will attract wild animals. We supply food canisters to hold food, packaging, and garbage during your visit. You are responsible to carry out all gear, food scrap, garbage, diapers, and menstrual products. Campers: rinse dirty dishes in the river and use the supplied canister to hang all food and garbage at your campsite.
- **Stay on trails** and within campsite boundaries. Do not carve or otherwise damage trees, bushes, logs, etc.
- **No Food in or around the hot springs/cabana area.** All food to be consumed ONLY at picnic tables and campsites.
- **No Glass anywhere on property**. No bottles, jars, candle lanterns, etc. Broken glass is a safety hazard.
- **No Fires or Open Flames: including Wood, Biomass, Charcoal, Candles, Liquid Fuels or Smoking.** **Exception:** Backpacking cook stoves and lighter when preparing food, ONLY at campsite or picnic table. (No cook stoves in the hot spring/cabana area).
- **No Alcohol allowed on property during youth group visits.**
- **No Smoking.** Please smoke off property and leave-no-trace. Vaping is allowed (only) in the campsite.
- **No Illegal Drugs allowed on property.**
- **No Weapons. No Firearms, Bows, Machetes.** Basic camping tools/knives allowed. Bear spray must be safely stored at your campsite or with the Caretaker.
- **No Dogs or other pets allowed on property.**
- **No soap, scrubs, or other products at the hot springs**.
- **Candles.** Please bring alternative light sources or ask the Caretakers for candle use requirements. Wax makes a mess and is very hard to clean for our Caretakers.
- **Use the outhouse toilets (*not the woods*).** Human waste near campsites or hot springs is a public health hazard and **urine can attract mountain goats**. *Do not leave menstrual products or diapers in the outhouse – carry them out with you.*
- **No Radios, Speakers, or Drones.** Goldmyer is a place to enjoy the sounds of nature.
- **No Photos, No Videos, No Phone Use allowed in the hot springs area (pools, cabana, surrounding space).** Phones and cameras should be put away when approaching and while at the hot springs area. **Elsewhere on property:** Consent of all visitors that may be in photos/videos must be obtained before taking photographs or videos. **Content for Commercial Use is prohibited.** This includes but is not limited to: news media, blogs, and social media.
- **Quiet Hours are 10:00pm – 8:00am**. Please be courteous of noise levels during your stay on property.
- **Pools are closed for cleaning every Monday and Thursday from 9:00pm - 2:00am.**

Goldmyer Hot Springs – Directions



GPS COORDINATES | N 47.48540 W 121.3894

You may use GPS to get to Exit 34, but use these directions to reach the trailhead and Goldmyer.

We do not recommend using hiking apps as they send you on longer, more challenging routes over peaks and/or using primitive trails. Goldmyer cannot provide directions for other trails/routes.

If you approach Goldmyer via the PCT loop, Snow Lake, Middle Fork Trail, Red Pass, etc. you will have to walk through Burntboot Creek on the south side of our property - there is no footbridge. The water in Burntboot can be swift and deep. We do not recommend attempting that crossing during rainy or snowmelt seasons.

TRAVEL TIME

Travel time is approximately 4-5 hours *one-way* (driving and hiking combined) from the Seattle/Tacoma area.

- Driving: Seattle to 1-90 Exit 34 - approx. 45 minutes (without interruption) then from Exit 34 to Dingford Trailhead - approx. 1-2 hours (depending on season).
- Hiking: Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 1.5 to 3 hours (depending on conditioning and pack weight).
- Biking: Dingford Trailhead to Goldmyer - 45-90 minutes (depending on conditioning and pack weight).

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From 1-90, use Exit 34 (468th Ave SE).
- Turn north off the freeway exit (left if driving east from Seattle, right if driving west).
- Shortly after the truck stop, turn right onto Middle Fork Road.
- At the fork in the road go to the left (the right is closed). After about a mile you'll see a stop sign, take a left at the stop sign.
- After 11.5 miles at the Middle Fork Campground, the pavement ends and you will drive across the Taylor River bridge - a single lane concrete bridge.
- After the bridge and next to the Garfield Ledge Trailhead (and outhouses), take a sharp right on Forest Service Road 5620 and head uphill towards the Dingford Trailhead. *This hill can be difficult for low clearance vehicles (sedans) and rear wheel drive trucks with no weight in the back. If there is snow or ice; it is dangerous to drive this section without snow chains.*
- Drive for about 6 miles on this one-lane rocky and potholed gravel road. *Anticipate rocks, tree debris, drainage dips or washouts, and encroaching brush. It will be slow going.*
- Arrive at the Dingford Trailhead: It opens up into a parking area with a big metal gate at the far end. Park in a designated spot and do not block the gate.

HIKING / BIKING ROUTE

The Dutch Miller Gap Trail (old Forest Service road) is about 5 miles each way and runs along the north side of the Snoqualmie Middle Fork River. The trail is open to hikers and mountain bikes all year.
Motorized vehicles are not allowed beyond the gate for visitors - including motorcycles, dirt bikes, four-wheelers, snow mobiles, ATVs, etc.

- Pass through the big metal gate at the far end of the parking lot. You will shortly cross a bridge over Dingford Creek Falls confirming you are on the correct route.
- At 1 mile from the gate you will pass 'Sky Rock', a huge boulder that fell from the cliffs of Price Mountain in 2020.
- At 1.9 miles from the gate you will make a sharp turn away from the river to bypass a trail washout resulting from the December 2025 flooding.
- At 4.5 miles from the gate you will come to another fork at a noticeably wider spot in the roadbed. Note the 'Goldmyer' sign high in a tree pointing right. Head down the right fork towards the river.
- 700 feet down the right fork you will come to a footbridge over the (Snoqualmie Middle Fork) river. Cross it and turn right onto the Middle Fork trail.
- In 200 feet turn left at a 'T' trail junction and continue 1/4 mile to arrive at the Caretaker's cabin for Check-in.