



June 2020 News

Our hearts are heavy with the deep grief and pain that our Black and Brown families, friends, partners, and communities continue to experience in this country as a result of systemic racism and police brutality.

The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) has only further shed light on this [deep-rooted inequity](#) as Black Americans are dying from the disease at a much higher rate than White Americans. A key element of our mission at Sierra Club is to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.

Environmental issues cannot be separated from racial and social justice—we can't fulfill our mission to "enlist humanity" to protect the planet while racism continues to divide us and inflict pain and suffering in our communities.

Sierra Club is on an ongoing journey to become better allies and accomplices in the movement towards anti-racism. We are committed to centering and uplifting the voices and experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) on our staff and in our communities.

In this issue...

- [Gathering](#)
 - [Take Action](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Outings](#)
 - [Local Leader Elections](#)
 - [Volunteer Opportunity](#)
 - [Ray of Hope](#)
-

Third Thursday Virtual Gathering

June 18, Doors open 5:45 pm

- Program starts at 6 pm

Please join us for a conversation about how we in the Snohomish and Island County environmental community can respond to the deeply institutionalized racism in this country. What can we do as an organization and as individuals to create communities that are truly safe, just and equitable for all?



Optional [RSVP](#) to let us know you're coming,

On June 18th: zoom.us/j/200716378

Take Action

How We Can Help the Cause of Justice

- We can educate ourselves through reading and watching informational items that expose the truth about racism in this country. See Sno-Isle Libraries [Anti-Racist Resources](#) online eBooks and Audiobooks.
- We can join and support our local [Snohomish NAACP Chapter](#) and donate to the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#).
- We can sign petitions and send emails. [See How](#)
- We can work on these [Justice in June](#) actions.



Sierra Club volunteers join rally for justice.

The [Communities of Color Coalition](#) (C3) is a non-partisan group of citizens who meet on behalf of the people of Snohomish County to discuss, problem-solve, and advocate for social justice, cultural and religious respect and human rights, especially for people of color and other under-represented groups.

Their major areas of concern include but are not limited to the elimination of personal and institutional racism; equal access to and opportunities in education; equal access to and opportunities in economic development and employment; and fair and equal treatment under the law and in our society.

Events

Juneteenth celebrated on June 19

This holiday commemorates the abolition of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865. Texas was the last state to have the Emancipation Proclamation read and enforced. Other names for the day include Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Cel-Liberation Day and the Black Fourth of July.

The day is especially significant this year as our nation looks ahead to all that still needs to happen for people of color in this country to be truly and fully free and equal.

Juneteenth is not a Federal holiday, but 43 states and the District of Columbia recognize it as either a state holiday or a ceremonial holiday. Efforts to have the day nationally recognized as Juneteenth Independence Day have been rejected in the US Senate.



June 12 BLM Statewide General Strike

Leaders with [Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County](#) encourage all communities to plan a day of actions on June 12 in support of systemic changes for racial justice.



Outings: Making the Outdoors a Safe Place For All

Although all Sierra Club led outings have been cancelled through August, Sierra Club is working hard to ensure that our outdoor parks and spaces are welcoming and safe places for all. See message from Sierra Club Director Michael Brune: [From Outrage to Justice](#)

Also this message regarding equity from the [Audubon Society](#)

And the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition offers this [Information](#)



Elections

Local Leader Nominations

Do you have an interest in helping direct our future activities to promote social justice as well as to protect our environment?

Nominations are now open for members in Island and Snohomish counties.



Help build a diverse leadership team. Contact our nominations committee at Sno-Isle@Washington.SierraClub.org

Volunteer Opportunity

As President Obama has reminded us, voting is an important way to work for justice. In his recent speech, he pointed out that electing officials who support our values is essential to change.

You can help by participating in Sierra Club's massive effort to [Get Out the Vote](#)



*This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in
unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.*

Theodore Roosevelt

from the [Sierra Club Daily Ray of Hope](#)



Sierra Club Sno-Isle Group