

If I were mayor, I would focus on the internal improvements for our community and city. Skagway is, without a doubt, a gorgeous town. It's been such a privilege to grow up right next to the ocean and surrounded by majestic, snowy mountains. Our community welcomes thousands of tourists every summer who come to enjoy this beauty. Although Skagway is already as pretty as a picture, it could always use improvements which would come through monthly community service projects. These events would serve two purposes, one, it would bring the community closer together and, two, it would help to beautify Skagway. The community members would also receive benefits from participating in these projects through a drawing that would be held at each event.

The annual Clean Sweep is a great way to rid Skagway of trash and make the landscape cleaner. Having monthly clean sweeps would help keep the town clean year-round. This would especially be beneficial in the summer when tourists are dropping trash left and right. Having this project monthly would be a quick process because there will be less trash to pick up since we had cleaned the month before. This event would be easy for children to join in on and a great way to get them involved in community service from a young age. Clean Sweeps have always been a fun way to engage with my community and see members that I don't get to see often.

Another idea for a monthly service project would be to have community members work on the community garden. Improving the community garden would be beneficial to the image of Skagway. Some examples of how to improve the garden would be to organize the supplies available, replace the garden beds, or even simply pulling weeds. This garden is a great resource for community members and can promote self-sustainability.

The hiking trails around our town are a huge part of our tourism industry. The trails are a fun way to get exercise while also enjoying Skagway's scenery. Some of the trails get a little out

of hand with fallen tree branches and leaves. Having the community members have a trail clean up would increase the appeal of hiking. The trail clean up doesn't have to be anything extreme such as redoing the whole trail, but it can simply be moving the debris from off the paths.

Some people need an incentive for doing these service projects. That's where the drawing comes into play. Each person that participates in the service events would be entered into the raffle each month and someone would be drawn to receive a prize. There are many possibilities of the prizes that could be earned but keeping them community based would go along with the theme of serving our community. There could be two different drawings, one for the adults and one for kids, just to keep the community's children interested in serving others. Examples of these prizes could be a free pass to the Recreation Center, a free month of utilities, or gift certificates from Skagway businesses. The kids prizes could be something like toys donated by businesses or purchased by the city. This drawing could be a fun way to engage community members in doing their part for the town of Skagway.

These are just a few ideas of what the community members could do to improve Skagway but there are dozens of other ways we can help our town. Serving at the senior center, repainting playground equipment, etc. These service projects could be organized if certain needs arise from community members, groups, or businesses. This would be a great way to show the community members that we care and we only want to see Skagway get better. The drawing would be an incentive for people to come out and attend the service events. Skagway is my home and if I were mayor, I would want to improve it as much as possible. By including the community members in this task, it would build a stronger sense of community throughout our city. I'd like to see Skagway stay beautiful for years to come so that more people can enjoy all that Skagway means to me.

By Chloe Miller