

## Jeffrey Rupert's Bio

I was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho but my family moved back to Washington after my father got out of the Navy when I was a young boy. I have been a resident of Kitsap County since I was around 5 years old and have owned my home in Illahee since my early 20s. As a teenager I used to ride my bicycle or skateboard down to Illahee state park or to the Illahee dock especially in the summer months. Basically, Illahee has been my hometown for the majority of my life.

I have worked at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard since I was 18 years old and have had numerous job titles over the years. I was hired as a shop 38 (outside machinist) apprentice, moved on to be a nuclear inspector, nuclear engineering technician and a production third level manager before going back to engineering.

I am a proud father of two wonderful young adults who bring me joy on a regular basis. I am proud to say that even at 17 and almost 19 years old they still like to hang out with me and go on vacations together. I don't know if it is uncommon but I feel like I am always trying to make my kids feel proud of me. I was one of those rare dads that made it to 90% of their field trips, coached on their teams, regularly had lunch at school with them and their friends and got to spend an entire week with each of their 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes on their trip to Islandwood. Being a dad has certainly been the most challenging and rewarding thing I have ever done in my life and I look forward to it every day.

In my free time I enjoy spending time in nature and travelling. I enjoy all that the PNW has to offer from the mountain tops to all of the waters around us. I love hiking, camping, fishing, beekeeping, gardening, making bigleaf maple syrup, foraging for berries and plants, mushroom hunting, kayaking and plan to get back into surfing after my recent trip to Costa Rica. I also enjoy volunteering and can be found at local farmers markets and festivals. Over the years I have volunteered for the Bremerton Food Co-op, Bremerton, Silverdale, Poulsbo and Port Orchard Farmers markets either working the WSU Master Gardeners or West Sound Bee Association booths. In the last several years I also have participated in a joint study between UW, WSU and OSU for conservation of bigleaf maple forests and establishing a larger market for bigleaf maple syrup.

Being a part of Illahee Commissioner seems to be another one of those incredible opportunities for me to give back to the community that I have grown up enjoying and loving. I look forward to helping out in progressing all of the projects that the current and former Commissioners have gotten started. I'm excited to see the old store get renovated, the park get established and the pier get expanded and repaired. I look forward to representing my neighbors, hearing and relaying your words and wishes and even having to do the hard things that no one really wants to do but someone has to. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and especially at Illahee Days where you will likely find my cooking or serving up some food with my fellow Commissioners and probably my kids at my side.

Thank you my neighbors for trusting me with the honor of representing you all. I will do my best not to let you down but please don't be afraid to tell me if you feel that I have!