

# Snowshoe Summit

April 25, 2020

9am-12pm

## Zoom Video

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97692019730?pwd=V3BYU1ExNFhGTWY2emlFN29vMWxOQT09>

Meeting ID: 976 9201 9730

Password: 266441

Dial by phone:

669-900-6833

[Snowshoe Standards 2018](#)

[2019 Summit Minutes](#)

Attendees: Doug Terry, Gene Keltgen, Travis Prescott, Glenn Eades, David Bradley, Hillary Shearer, Tom Eckhout, Jimmy Jet Klansnic, KD Dase, Becca Polglase, Nick Block

## Agenda

Welcome and around the room (9am)

- Intros
- Branch updates
  - Seattle (David Bradley, Jimmy Jet Klansnic, Glenn Eades, KD Dase)
    - All programs finished, but missed a basic field trip
    - Equivalency has been a challenge
    - Mixed reviews on 2 field trips for intermediate course
    - Volatile conditions made for challenging scheduling
    - Question arose about course fees
    - Challenge - get people off course waitlist in a timely manner
      - Need to get people moving off the waitlists
      - Had an open capacity of about 15%
    - Opportunity: courses can list links to other branches' courses within their course so students can see opportunities
  - Kitsap (Doug Terry)
    - Competition with another small organization in the community
      - Peninsula Wilderness Club
    - Committee is on hold; not many leaders
    - Could potentially revitalize committee this winter
  - Everett (Hillary Shearer)

- Small program - ~20 students
- Had to cancel first lecture because of snow. Use Everett School District buildings; used instructional videos to cover first lecture
  - This may have been a good thing - easily reusable
- It's been challenging to grow the snowshoe program. It's part of scrambling, and uses scramble instructors. It's a struggle just to get 6-8 instructors for a single field trip.
- Next year - no intermediate; will do winter camping
- Olympia (Tom Eckhout)
  - Small program. 14 students; only 1 graduated so far
  - Complete course, but students need to complete 2 additional trips
  - Field trip at White Pass had good snow pack
- Foothills (Travis Prescott)
  - Basic - 50 students
  - Intermediate - one loonggg day at Stevens Pass
    - Dropped AIARE requirement
  - Winter Camping - ½ skiers; ½ snowshoers (want to market to scramblers next year)
  - Last ski trip didn't go, but all the snowshoer field trips happened
  - Next year skiers will probably split off for winter camping
  - Luckily didn't have to cancel due to COVID
  - Preliminary conversations about avalanche awareness eLearning
- Tacoma (Gene Keltgen)
  - Good stable committee of instructors
    - Developed subcommittee positions (leader recruitment & mentorship; etc)
  - Intermediate
    - Dropped AIARE requirement
    - Added 2nd field trip to cover basic avalanche safety concepts
      - NWAC instructor helped
  - Winter Camping 25 students
    - Challenging to have a great diversity of skill sets among students
    - Some have never even backpacked before
    - Added 2nd lecture night to focus on gear; gear check
  - Working on process of vetting new leaders & equivalency
    - Important step forward for the committee

#### COVID-19 and The Mountaineers (9:30am)

- Overview of our response (Nick)
- Virtual Education Center (Nick)
- Google Classrooms (Nick)
- Thinking ahead to 2021 (Becca)
  - Possibly day trips with small party size

- Possibly overnight trips with shared accommodations out of the question
- Could create structured separation by roping people up
- Large lectures could be conducted online
  - Could the interactive part happen in small groups?
- Field trips of 6-8 students
- How much does self-serve online training diminish the social value of The Mountaineers?
  - Goal: strike the balance. Have self-serve material online, but bring it together via zoom or in person conversations
- Adds a set of skills & a new medium for The Mountaineers to deliver courses

#### Standards Review (10am)

- Proposal to transition AWAY from T/S, re-assign definitions to Beginner/Basic/Intermediate; Difficulty Level
  - General consensus that this is a good idea
  - All committees will review/submit questions or concerns by the end of May

#### Possible Agenda Items time-permitting:

- Equivalency
  - Agreement to share process via basecamp
- Course Fees
  - Clubwide guidance is good, but branch committees need more transparency and ability to make informed decisions
  - Alignment between branches
  - It is needed to have an understanding not only of pricing for the committee, but also understanding of pricing across branches
- Skill Badges
  - Currently “student badge” works as a prerequisite to attend trips, which means that they can sign up for trips before they’ve had the pre-requisite training
  - [Proposal](#) (Basecamp thread with a link to David's document within)
    - Award skill badges post field trips
    - Remove “student badge” as an acceptable prerequisite for trips
  - Which is the most important problem to solve?
    - Students can sign up for trips without having the prerequisite skills, leading to under-qualified students on trips
    - Students cannot sign up for trips until they have completed a particular field trip without the leader adding them, making it frustrating for students in the course

#### Action Items and Next Steps (11:45am)

**Action Item:** **Everyone** please review [the proposed standards changes](#) with your committee. Your feedback is due no later than May 31.

**Action Item:** **Staff** will post course fee guidance for next season once we have those numbers for you

**Action Item:** **Everyone** please share your equivalency process on Basecamp (Nick has started a thread). Let's start the discussion and increase visibility on how each program handles this.

**Action Item:** **Everyone** please [review David's proposal to use skill badges](#) instead of the snowshoe course badge as a prerequisite to go on snowshoe trips. This proposal involves removal of use of the student badge as a way for students to go on trips.

We determined that this proposal may solve one problem but create another. Which is the most important problem to solve?

- **Using the student badge** - Students can sign up for trips without having the prerequisite skills, leading to under-qualified students on trips
- **Using multiple skills badges** - Students cannot sign up for trips until they have completed a particular field trip without the leader adding them, making it frustrating for students in the course

Adjourn (12pm)