

Snowshoe Summit 2021 Minutes

April 18, 2020

9am-12pm

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Zoom Video

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Meeting ID: 875 3713 8308

Passcode: 247463

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Attendees: Glenn Eades, Gabrielle Orsi, Hannah Tennent (Staff), Hilary Shearer, Travis Prescott, Gene Keltgen, Jimmy Klansnic, Nick Block (Staff)

Agenda:

Welcome and around the room (9am)

- Intros
- Branch updates
 - **Everett:** Difficulty finding leaders due to participants from other branches coming to take the course and then not being engaged. Easier to find assistants than leaders. Good year w/ record number of sign-ups (24!), graduated 18 students. Course was posted later than normal so volunteers were tough to find but it still filled!
 - Potential solutions for lack of leaders: 1. Could appeal to instructors from other branches if needed. Basecamp could be a tool for this. 2. Leader candidates from a variety of branches could be assistant leaders. 3. Could “swap” folks on a field trip and learn from other branches.
 - **Foothills:** Graduated nearly 30 from basic! Intermediate course went but dealt with avalanche concerns and volunteers. Winter camping had 18 students! Transportation was an anticipated concern since carpooling was discouraged but that was listed transparently in the application and no one seemed to have an issue with it.
 - Avalanche concerns w/ intermediate: Ice axe component of Intermediate course is where the avalanche concern comes in. Could do the ice axe component later in the spring?

- Covid changes: Gear nights on Zoom were challenging. Foothills created “virtual gear tables” as a presentation with photos of gear.
 - **Next steps:** Also used Google classroom which Travis will share (google classroom adds an additional layer of tech admin management).
 - **Seattle:** Due to Covid, solicited feedback from instructors about their plans long before course which was helpful. Fieldtrips were 6 students, 2 instructors and the trip leaders were fully responsible for their trips which freed the committee up and let them get to know leaders. Smaller groups allowed for more flexibility. Visited a few new spots (Hyak Lake, Lodge Lake) and found they weren’t as high quality for instruction as Commonwealth and Grace Lake. Intermediate course: 20 students!
 - Trip previews: This year, did an online trip review a few days before the trips which helped people be more prepared on fieldtrips and was better than doing a trip preview at the lecture, a week and a half before the trip. Covered gear and NWAC reports. Whole course is invited but then did break out rooms with students and instructors on specific trips.
 - Equivalency: Previously, equivalency candidates came as co-instructors but that doesn’t work well with small field trips with only 2 instructors. Now, they lead equivalency trips which have been good learning opportunities for participants. Equivalency is a good way to build leaders and takes effort from committee so it’s great to focus on people who could be leaders.
 - Course management on website can be very challenging. Helps to have someone who is in charge of it.
 - **Tacoma:** Basic, Intermediate, and Winter Camping had a record cumulative # of students: 175! Zoom presentations did help provide more access and allowed for additional students. Pods were a helpful new tool; it provided better experiences for leaders and students to get to know each other. A key to the pods is that leaders all need to be equally prepared w/ a depth of experience since each pod is independent. These hybrid components will likely continue.
 - Main changes in field trips: Offered Winter Travel field trip with ice axe experience and then another that was a full day of Avalanche. Added an extra weekend of winter camping which helped with folks who had never been backpacking so they offered a first weekend of camping at Irish Cabin so that people’s first time camping wasn’t winter camping.

Standards Review (10am)

- Discussion on current trip Trip Ratings
 - Do we need to make updates to routes on the website?
 - Ratings used to be easy, easy plus, moderate, and strenuous. Now it’s easy, moderate, strenuous, and very strenuous (these are now based on avalanche and ice axe terrain). Some of the previous routes likely need to be updated to the new labels.

- Snowshoe Travel Skills Badge (Travis)
 - Snowshoe does not currently have a skills badge. Taking a Basic course could award someone a Snowshoe Travel Skills Badge. Eventually, activity templates could be updated to allow people to register for trips with a Travel Skills badge and an Avalanche skills badge, for example. Badge could be assigned after a Basic Skills fieldtrip or a day clinic. Ex: A spring field trip focusing on ice axe would award someone a snow travel skills badge.
 - Pro arguments: Skills badges can be more flexible than course badges since not all branches offers the same courses. More courses are moving towards modular formats in which it's easier to award badges for skills learned, as opposed to an entire course. Could have awarded some skill badges to folks who had interrupted courses due to Covid.
 - Potential complexities: Do we retroactively assign it to folks? Answer: Some leaders could get it after leading field trips. There is a field in activity where you can award badges to both students and leaders.
 - **Next steps:** Run it by committees and Everett has voted for it. Report back after committee meetings.
- Eliminate Common Equivalency Application (Travis)
 - Proposal: Different branches have different ways of running equivalency and different goals. Get rid of the common app on website so then each committee and branch can have their own survey and process.
 - Before all branches meet to decide this, some branches could opt out of the common app in the meantime.
 - **Next steps:** Add specific directions on the common app that if you are wanting to do this for foothills, there is another application.
- What to do with folks who don't graduate courses because they missed field trips, etc. How much work to put in to follow up with them? (HS)
 - Seattle: An email to folks saying "hey, if you want to take this again next year please reach out to us" and leave it to the student to follow up. Could add details about why someone missed a field trip (was it an injury that prevented them from coming or did they not show up and give no notice?).
 - Tacoma: Students have more than 1 year to graduate so it allows more time. They also reach out via email and outline what people need to do to graduate.
- Updates to recommended pricing (GK)
 - **Next steps:** Nick Block can check and will report back on Basecamp.

Staff Updates (11:45am)

- ELearning
 - Staff is currently exploring Elearning alternatives and hopes to have one in the next few months.
 - Travis advocates for an avalanche course on e-learning as it's used by so many activities.

Adjourn (12pm)

Next year's summit is April 24, 2022