



Branch Leadership Committee
Meeting Agenda for February 15, 2023
6:00pm to 7:30pm via Zoom

Meeting Information

Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Branch Leadership Members

- James H
- Nathan Andrus (BHAM)
- Nick M (EVE)
- Brad P (FH)
- Lori (FH)
- John M (KIT)
- Melissa (KIT)
- Janette Z (OLY)
- Tess W (SEA),
- Craig K (SEA)
- Curtis S (TAG)
- Cindy H (GA)
- John Mackey (KitsaP)
- Bill A (Safety)
- Sara R,
- Becca P

Attendance:

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions--James
2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda for February 15, 2023
Motion to Approve: Nathan; Second: Nick: Approved.
3. Review and approval of the meeting [minutes](#) from January 18, 2023
Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Melissa: Approved.
4. Branch Reports—Mountaineer Branch Chairs
 - Open leadership positions
 - Relevant Updates
 - Kitsap: Basic climbing has started. Navigation committee looking to redesign courses. Wilderness navigation to start at Fort Gamble ferry.



Two spots open for navigation. Wilderness first aid to start March 4 and 5—currently full. Upcoming Sea Kayak leader rodeo at Rich Passage.

- Tacoma: No change in leadership vacancies. Courses are starting/in progress. No issues or concerns with courses.
- Seattle: Course activities underway. Met with the facility and events manager at the program center. Proposal to split Urban Walks from the Hiking committee.
 - Are Urban Walks in other branches? Yes, Urban Walk is a subcommittee of the Hiking Committee at Foothills. Every branch manages urban walks differently. Some combine to make it more efficient, some separate them.
 - Also looking for a chair-elect and will begin recruiting for a secretary.
 - Intermediate and Basic Climbing courses are both full. Seattle has wait lists for both Climbing and Scrambling. More instructor capacity is needed for both courses. The lack of instructors limits ability to conduct both courses.
- Everett: Courses underway and Scrambling started tonight. Two potential candidates for the Board of Director position. The selected Director representative may visit the board retreat on March 11. A Communication Director has been identified.
- Bellingham: Both Basic and Intermediate climbing are full with waitlists for both. Branch has begun a beta Scramble course No leadership positions are open. Courses are going well.
- Foothills: Still looking for a chair-elect. Lots of courses to start this spring including Introduction to Trail Running Racing, Go Hike and Go Hike alumni course. Wilderness Navigation has 3 spots open. Scrambling has a wait list. Backpacking Building Block has begun and Backpacking with Kids has 7 spots left. Staying Found has a few openings.
- Branch Charters Update:
 - Foothills will post a draft to basecamp for review.
 - Tacoma: Curtis presented the proposed timeline to the Tacoma Branch Council. Timeline was ok'd and volunteers in place to support developing the charter.
 - Bellingham: The charter was brought up at the last branch meeting. There is some hesitancy to get going due to volunteer capacity and how it fits with officer term limits. Also some hesitancy to move too quickly as the charter needs to help and not hinder the branch.
 - Kitsap: Charter needs to be approved by the Branch Council and then it will be ready for BLC review.

5. Committee & Organizational Reports

- Safety



- Safety Updates & Lessons Learned
 - The last Safety Committee well attended. A couple of incidents for discussion. Safety officer of branch engages with the branch activity leader to undertake fact finding. Currently working on incidents at Foothills and Everett.
 - All safety officer positions are filled. Have more safety reps at the committee level to support safety officers.
 - Made progress on the annual safety report draft for 2010/12 to 2022. Incident detail is just for 2022. Safety Committee is reviewing. Key findings haven't changed from past years. Off-trail incidents are mainly hit/struck by loose rock by participants. On-trail is mainly slip/trip/fall.
 - 2022 incident data has shown the benefits of using trekking poles. They are good for a 3rd point of balance and could be used to mitigate some safety issues.
 - Discussion:
 - Bellingham: Why are the peaks not named in incident reports? If peaks were named, we could see trends for a certain peak?
 - Safety: There are about 150 incidents a year out of 1,000s of destinations. No particular destination has had a safety repetition.
 - Q: Do health related/conditioning correlates to age.
 - Safety: Haven't seen any other incidents correlate with age/gender.
 - Report will be published on the website and then blasted out to basecamps and other resources. Want to get feedback on what could do better.
 - The Safety Committee is discussing how to get more airtime about the incident report. Need to make the report more of a living document.
- Global Adventures—Cindy (Absent but report below)
 - Nothing new or exciting to report from Global Adventures today though. Cheryl is on her backpacking GA in northern Patagonia now. The XC Ski GA I led in Jan to the Canadian Rockies went really well, and even generated some “net margin” (AKA “Profit”) for the Mountaineers.
- Operations - Sara & Becca
 - Essential Eligibility [Criteria](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Approved.
 - Board Activities Policies (no update)
 - Policy that will formally set the Branch Leadership Committee. No real updates. The essential eligibility criteria is the link from the committee to the board.



- [Emotional Safety in the Outdoors](#) Course
 - Course launched in January. Feel free to share with branch leaders and committees.
- Internal Lottery to allocate use of outdoor spaces. Email sent last week for the timeline. Open until March 5. Step 2 is to ask branch chairs to prioritize requests across committees. Finalized April 8.
- Volunteer appreciation on 1/28. Last big piece of programming. Next is leadership development starting in April.

6. Activity Charters & Standards

- Hiking Council [Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Believe the numbering was addressed and resolved. Could do a conditional approval.
 - Motion to Approve: Curtis; Second: Nathan: Approved.
- Hiking [Standards](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Approved
- Backpacking Council [Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - *Becca checked with the council on the concern with mis-numbering of sections. It has been fixed for this reading.*
 - Motion to Approve: Nathan; Second: Melissa: Approved
- Backpacking [Standards](#)
 - 1st Reading (Updated and Revised Standards)
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Curtis: Approved
- Urban Walks Council [Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Approved
- Urban Walks [Standards](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Nathan: Approved.
- Trail Running Council [Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Conditional approval to review charter numbering: Motion: Curtis; Second Nick: Approved
- Trail Running [Standards](#)
 - 1st Reading & Discussion (Revisit Revised Standards)
 - Everett: At the beginning fastpacking considered a backcountry trip but listed as a separate requirement. Should it be front country, backcountry and fastpacking? Should it be a subfunction under backcountry? Sara will follow-up.
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Nathan: Approved.



- Updated Activity Council & Standards [Spreadsheet](#)
 - Great progress to the start of 2023!
 - Nick: Question about branch activity charters. Does the BLC approve branch activity charters?
 - Sara: Just approved by the branch. Charter are brought to BLC for approval.
 - Curtis: Where will the approved Branch Charters reside? Are they accessible through the website?
 - Sara, have created a committee page for each council and on that page is the roster for voting members.
 - First Aid Council [Charter](#) needs Bellingham Branch approval. Scheduled first reading is March BLC.
 - Sara: Who can I talk to in Bellingham to get a status on charter approval?
 - Nathan: has a contact for first aid and will send.
 - Charters and standards will live on the activity council website page.
 - Curtis: good to have an ongoing matrix of charters approved and those ready to be revised.

7. Branch Charters

- Everett Branch [Charter](#)
 - 2nd Reading & Discussion
 - Motion to Approve: Curtis; Second: Melissa: Approved
 - Nick: now charter is approved. Move to another place? What is the next step?
 - Sara: will talk with Becca and get back to you. Probably turn into a PDF.

8. Information & Discussion Items

- First Aid had a good summit. Goal is to have standards drafted by October.

9. Adjourn

- Next meeting BLC Meeting: March 15, 2023
 - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Approved.