

Lessons Learned: Intense Basic Climbing Course

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Fostering Leadership Conference

The Mountaineers

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Intense Basic Climbing Course

- Held June of 2013 and 2014, Seattle Climbing – 13 and 12 students
- Same content as regular Basic Course
- Nine continuous days (one work week and 2 weekends)
- Once instruction ends, students go on same climbs as regular course students

Why?

- Attract students who could not attend regular Basic Course
 - Live out of area
 - Work schedule issues
 - Jump start - For many years people have called in the Spring to join/climb and were told the course starts in January - they now do not have to wait
- Intense Scrambling Course was a success

Details

- 4 days in this building & climbing walls
- 2 days on outdoor rock, Leavenworth and Mt Erie
- 3 days on snow – Austin Pass, Mt Baker
 - One night snow camp
 - One overnight at Mt Baker Lodge
 - Included Crevasse Rescue
- Some meals included & Baker Lodging
- Bus transportation to/from mountains
- \$975

Pro and Con

- Pro: --Immersion!
 - Small group - enthusiasm
 - All students finished instruction, no drop outs
 - 7 of 13 from 2013 are in Intermediate Course
- Con: --Higher cost
 - Firehose approach – might have less retention
 - Work week instructors – retirees needed

Lessons

- Advertising was sent to 200 gyms/clubs – but all students: word-of-mouth or website
- Use of regular course content was essential
 - Keeps content consistent
 - Reduces need to develop course from scratch
- All reasons to hold course generated students
 - (Out of area, work schedule, jump start)
- Higher cost appears not to be a problem