

# Everett Climbing Committee - Climbing Policies

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## Table of Contents

I.	Climbing Committee.	1
A.	Climbing Committee Responsibilities.	1
II.	Basic Climbing	1
A.	Basic Climbing Course.	2
1.	Eligibility and Application Process.	2
2.	Lecture and Field Trip Requirements.	2
3.	Graduation Requirements.	2
4.	Course Extension.	2
B.	Basic Climbing Course Equivalency.	2
C.	Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements.	3
1.	Initial Requirements.	3
2.	Continuing Participation Requirements.	3
III.	Intermediate Climbing	3
A.	Intermediate Climbing Course.	3
1.	Eligibility and Application Process.	3
2.	Lecture and Field Trip Requirements.	3
3.	Graduation Requirements.	4
4.	Course Extension.	4
B.	Intermediate Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements.	4
1.	Initial Requirements.	4
2.	Continuing Participation Requirements.	4
C.	Intermediate Climbing Course Equivalency.	5
IV.	Sport Climbing	5
A.	Sport Climbing Course.	5
1.	Eligibility and Application Process.	5
2.	Field Trip Requirements.	5
3.	Graduation Requirements.	5
B.	Sport Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements.	5
1.	Initial Requirements.	5
2.	Continuing Participation Requirements.	5
V.	Climbing Requirements and Expectations.	5

A.	Basic Climb Leader Requirements.	5
1.	Initial Requirements.	6
2.	Continuing Participation Requirements.	6
B.	Intermediate Climb Leader Requirements.	6
1.	Initial Requirement.	6
2.	Continuing Participation Requirements.	6
C.	Expectations of Leaders.	6
D.	Expectations of Participants.	7
E.	Leader Development.	7
VI.	Equipment.	7
A.	Ropes.	7
B.	Equipment (other than ropes).	7
C.	Gear Locker.	7
D.	Inventory.	7
VII.	Records.	7
A.	Field Trip Instructor Records.	8
B.	Basic and Intermediate Climb Leader Records.	8
1.	Basic Climb Leader Records.	8
2.	Intermediate Climb Leader Records.	8
C.	Removals.	8
D.	Reinstatements.	8

## I. Climbing Committee

The Mountaineers - Everett Branch Operations Manual empowers the membership to create standing committees for conducting the ongoing activities of the Branch. The Climbing Committee, a standing committee of the Mountaineers - Everett Branch, is responsible for conducting the climbing activity as described in Branch Operations Manual. The primary function of the Everett Branch Climbing Committee is to offer the Basic Alpine Climbing, Intermediate Alpine Climbing and Sport Climbing Courses, conduct special seminars, and to facilitate climbing activity within the Everett Branch.

The Climbing Committee shall consist of a chairperson, selected by the Climbing Committee with the approval of the Branch Executive Committee. Other Climbing committee members shall be selected by their respective subcommittees with the approval of the Climbing Committee. Committee members that do not represent a subcommittee will be appointed by the Climbing Committee. Those positions may include Records Coordinator, Equipment Coordinator, Safety Coordinator, Secretary, or members at large. The Immediate Past Chairperson is also a member of the climbing committee.

The Committee shall meet on a regular basis, as determined by its members. These Climbing Committee Policies shall govern those activities that it sponsors. The required quorum shall consist of the Chairperson or designee and four other committee members or their designee.

When reviewing this document please reference the Minimum Clubwide Standards. The Everett Climbing programs may exceed the minimum standards but they may not be less stringent than the clubwide standard.

Email Voting: The Climbing Committee can vote between meetings to speed up the decision making process using email. However, if one committee member votes NO or has a reservation, then the vote should go to an in person meeting. That can be done at the next scheduled committee meeting or at a special meeting called just to discuss the vote. For a special meeting a quorum is required. Subcommittees may also use email voting per this policy. An online live meeting or conference call could be considered a special meeting for the purpose of this paragraph.

### A. *Climbing Committee Responsibilities*

- Work to achieve the mission and goals of the Everett Branch and The Mountaineers organization.
- Strive to have a diverse, open and inclusive population of members, students, instructors and leaders.
- Conduct climbing courses and seminars. This includes establishing eligibility requirements for the courses as well as their equivalency.
- Set fees for the seminars, climbing courses, and course equivalencies. The Committee will recommend fees based upon anticipated revenue and expenses of the Committee on a yearly basis. Course fees will also be coordinated with the clubwide Pricing Committee.
- Approve or reject Climbing Course graduation and equivalency petitions.
- Establish leader and instructor qualifications, and maintain a current Climb Leader and Field Trip Instructor list.
- Ensure proper maintenance and replacement of ropes and other climbing equipment managed by the Committee.
- Coordinate with the clubwide Safety Committee climbing accidents originating from trips sponsored by the Everett Climbing Committee and make recommendations or adjustments as appropriate.
- Prevent excessive alcohol consumption and drunken or disorderly behavior at any class event or activity.
- Administer climbing awards and leader incentives.
- Annually review Everett Branch climbing policies and documents.

## II. Basic Climbing

The Basic Climbing subcommittee shall be responsible for conducting the Basic Climbing Course, and for selection and approval of Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructors. The subcommittee shall offer an annual Instructor Review seminar, and as time and demand permits, the subcommittee may offer Basic Climbing Course Equivalency.

The subcommittee shall, as a minimum, consist of the Basic Climbing Course Coordinator, the Basic Lectures Coordinator, the Student Affairs Coordinator, and the Basic Field Trips Coordinator. The Climbs Coordinator and Records Coordinator shall assist the subcommittee in conducting their activities.

#### **A. Basic Climbing Course**

##### **1. Eligibility and Application Process**

- Course is open to Mountaineers members who are 18 years or older at the time of registration.
- Applicants must complete online course registration, sign appropriate waiver and release forms, and pay course fee.

##### **2. Lecture and Field Trip Requirements**

- Due to the large number of applicants, restricted class size, and a limited number of volunteer instructors, applicants are asked to consider these policies carefully and abide by them for the duration of the course.
- Attendance is mandatory for all lectures and field trips and must be attended sequentially. The course builds on the successive and successful completion of each lecture and field trip. Students are asked not to register for the course if they are unable to attend all lectures and field trips. Students earn the right to attend field trips based on their participation in earlier lectures and trips.
- Under certain circumstances, students can make up one lecture and one field trip. It is the student's responsibility to arrange their make-up with the Student Affairs Coordinator. Basic course volunteer instructors do not conduct individual sessions for those students who miss lectures or field trips. Students can sometimes attend field trips with another Mountaineer branch, although this is often difficult because the trips must be done sequentially.
- Attendance and performance at the field trip must be documented on the field trip booklet and given to the Everett Basic class field trip coordinator. A student must satisfactorily demonstrate all skills listed in the field trip booklet and items must be signed off by an approved instructor. In situations of question, the Basic Climbing Course Coordinator (or their designee) has the final authority in determining satisfactory performance.
- Anyone can attend a field trip as long as they get approval from the field trip leader, they are prepared and have registered as a guest. Priority for all activities will go to registered students enrolled in the class.
- Students who do not have the required clothing and equipment at each field trip will not be allowed to participate. UIAA-approved climbing helmets must be worn by students and instructors at all field trips when required.
- A student must attend all lectures (or be excused from a missed lecture), satisfactorily complete all field trips, be tested and pass the practical skills and technical knowledge exams, and be a current Mountaineers member before participating on Basic Climbs.

##### **3. Graduation Requirements**

See the Minimum Clubwide Standards document for graduation requirements.

##### **4. Course Extension**

- Students unable to meet course requirements during the year of application must apply in writing to the Basic Climbing Committee for an extension by October 15th of the course year.
- Requests for course extensions are reviewed by the Committee and are granted for a period of one year.
- The committee will determine and select appropriate lectures and field trips to be completed by applicant.
- Extension candidate may be asked to retake and pass the Practical Skills Test and written midterm and final exams during the extension year.

#### **B. Basic Climbing Course Equivalency**

- Petitioner will complete application form and submit to the Climbing Committee for review. Petitioner must be a Mountaineers member at the time of application.
- If the application is accepted, petitioner may be asked to attend a list of selected lectures and/or field trips (if

- appropriate).
- Petitioner must attend the Instructor Review in January of the year in which they wish to instruct, take intermediate classes, or climb with the program.
- The Petitioner must fulfill any requirements by October 15th in the year of registration.
- If applicable, submit graduation petition in writing to the Committee by October 15th in the year of registration.
- Petition is subject to Climbing Committee approval.

### C. *Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements*

Anyone meeting the following criteria may be authorized to instruct at Mountaineers - Everett Branch Basic Climbing Course field trips. The Climbing Committee may waive any of the requirements except Mountaineers membership.

#### 1. **Initial Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Graduate of a Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course or have Basic Climbing Course equivalency.
- Attend the Mountaineers – Everett Branch Instructor Review seminar.

#### 2. **Continuing Participation Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Attend the Mountaineers - Everett Branch Instructor Review field trip at least once every three years.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

## III. **Intermediate Climbing**

The Intermediate Climbing subcommittee shall be responsible for conducting the Intermediate Climbing Course, and for selection and approval of Intermediate Climbing Course Field Trip Instructors.

The subcommittee shall, as a minimum, consist of the Intermediate Climbing Course Coordinator and the Intermediate Module Focals. The Intermediate Field Trip Leaders may assist the subcommittee in conducting their activities. The Climbs Coordinator and Records Coordinator shall assist the subcommittee in conducting their activities.

### A. *Intermediate Climbing Course*

#### 1. **Eligibility and Application Process**

- A Course is open to Mountaineers members who have graduated from a Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course or have Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course equivalency.
- Anyone can attend a field trip as long as they get approval from the field trip leader, they are prepared and have registered as a guest. Priority for all activities will go to registered students enrolled in the class.
- Applicants must complete course application and pay course fee. Course fee is non-refundable after acceptance into the course.
- Applicants must demonstrate acceptable performance at the Instructor Review field trip.
- Final acceptance into the Intermediate Climbing Course is determined by Climbing Committee approval.
- Intermediate Climbing Course size is set by the Intermediate Climbing Committee and Intermediate Module Focals.
- The Intermediate Climbing Course is made up of multiple modules described in the student handbook. See the current year student handbook for a complete list of all Intermediate Climbing Course modules and requirements.

#### 2. **Lecture and Field Trip Requirements**

- Participants must attend all lectures and field trips within the first year or have Intermediate Course Coordinator prior approval to be completed in second year.
- Up to one Ice and one Rock field trip may be made up with another Mountaineers' Intermediate Climbing

Course with Intermediate Climbing Course Coordinator prior approval. Student is required to obtain a written statement from field trip leader that their performance was acceptable.

### **3. Graduation Requirements**

- See the Intermediate Climbing Program handbook for the year you were accepted or the year in which you completed your Intermediate Climbing Program requirements. If requirements changed in-between your start and end years you can pick either set of requirements.
- Complete all lectures and field trips within 5 years.
- Instruct at each Basic Climbing Course field trip within 5 years of acceptance into the course.
- Rope lead and summit on four approved Basic climbs and one approved Club Climb after acceptance into the course. These five climbs must include at least 2 Rock and 2 Glacier climbs and be completed within five years. Alternatively, rope lead and summit on four of five of the prior listed climbs and lead one Basic Climbing Course field trip.
- Summit on 5 approved Intermediate climbs, including at least 2 Rock and 2 Ice climbs, within 5 years. Intermediate students are expected to swing leads to receive credit. The climb leader has final authority in determining satisfactory performance on a climb.
- Summit on 2 Winter climbs, of which one must be an overnight trip, within 5 years. The climb leader has final authority in determining satisfactory performance on a climb.
- Competence in Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA, WFA or equivalent) per the Mountaineers Minimum Standards Document.
- Petition the Climbing Committee via the Intermediate Climbing Course Coordinator when requirements have been completed. All Intermediate Climbing Course petitions are due no later than October 15th of the year to be considered for graduation. Petitions for graduation are subject to Climbing Committee approval.

### **4. Course Extension**

- Any student who is unable to complete the course requirements within five years may apply in writing to the Intermediate Course Coordinator for an extension by October 15th of the fifth year.
- A written response shall be returned stating if an extension has been granted. If an extension is granted, the letter will also outline the length of the extension and the requirements to be fulfilled during the extension period.
- All requirements for graduation at the time the individual started the course or per the current year handbook must be completed in addition to any additional requirements stated in the written response.

## **B. *Intermediate Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements***

Anyone meeting the following criteria will be authorized to instruct at Mountaineers - Everett Branch Intermediate Climbing Course field trips. The Climbing Committee may waive any of the requirements except Mountaineers membership unless instructor is signed up as a guest.

### **1. Initial Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member or registered guest with approval of Field Trip Leader.
- Meet all initial requirements for Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructors.
- Successful completion of all Intermediate Climbing Course lectures and field trips pertaining to the activity which the person will instruct (e.g., rock climbing, ice climbing) or have equivalent experience.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

### **2. Continuing Participation Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Instruct at one Intermediate Climbing Course field trip within the last three years.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

### C. *Intermediate Climbing Course Equivalency*

Equivalency is handled on a case-by-case basis per individual Intermediate Climbing Course module.

## IV. **Sport Climbing**

The subcommittee shall consist of the Sport Climbing Course Coordinator, Field Trip Leaders, and members at large as required.

### A. *Sport Climbing Course*

#### 1. **Eligibility and Application Process**

- The course is open to the general public. No prerequisites exist beyond prior top rope belay experience and some baseline climbing ability.
- An online application is required for consideration for course admission. This application is open as soon as the course is posted to the Mountaineer's website as a link on the course page.
- We currently accept 12 students for each instance of the course. This number may change and/or additional course instances may be run per calendar year depending upon resource availability.
- A minimum top-rope climbing ability of 5.9 (consistent flash in gym) is preferred.

#### 2. **Field Trip Requirements**

- Participants must attend and actively participate in each course field trip. Participants are expected to arrive at designated areas for the trip on time.

#### 3. **Graduation Requirements**

- Attend all field trips and/or make-up trip as noted above.
- Demonstrate competence in the following skills (in no particular order); PBUS style belay, lead belay with proper slack given the situation, dynamic belay / soft catch, controlled/intentional falls, communication prior and during climb, pre-climb checks, competency with a gri-gri or other brake assist device, proper clipping technique, basic rope management and awareness (closed systems), safely approaching routes from the top, sport anchors and top-rope setup, terrain evaluation (yes-fall vs. no-fall), bolt and fixed gear evaluation, clean and lower, clean and rappel, using guidebooks.

### B. *Sport Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements*

#### 1. **Initial Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member or registered guest, with approval by Field Trip Leader.
- Prior graduate of the Sport Climbing course, LOR or demonstrable prior experience leading single pitch sport routes.
- For experienced instructors that have not taken the sport course or LOR, it's required they attend the first field trip to establish consistency in the material delivered.

#### 2. **Continuing Participation Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Known to be actively leading sport or trad climbs within the past year.

## V. **Climbing Requirements and Expectations**

### A. *Basic Climb Leader Requirements*

Anyone meeting the following criteria will be authorized to lead Basic and Club climbs for the Mountaineers - Everett Branch. The Climbing Committee may waive any of the requirements except Mountaineers membership.

### **1. Initial Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Graduate of a Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course or have Basic Climbing Course equivalency.
- Organize and lead two Basic climbs (one Rock and one Glacier) as a "leader-in-training" under the supervision of an approved climb leader. (The three Basic climbs done in fulfillment of the requirements for Basic Climbing Course graduation may not be used to meet this requirement.) These two climbs must be supervised by two different approved climb leaders.
- Competence in Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA, WFA or equivalent) per the Mountaineers Minimum Standards Document.
- Attend the Mountaineers - Everett Branch Leadership Seminar, or obtain a waiver from the Climbs Coordinator or the Climbing Committee Chair.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

### **2. Continuing Participation Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Lead two climbs (Basic, Club, or Intermediate) within the last three years. A serious attempt that does not summit is sufficient to meet this requirement.
- Attend the Mountaineers - Everett Branch Instructor Review field trip at least once every three years.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

## **B. *Intermediate Climb Leader Requirements***

Anyone meeting the following criteria will be authorized to lead Intermediate climbs for the Mountaineers - Everett Branch. The Climbing Committee may waive any of the requirements except Mountaineers membership.

### **1. Initial Requirement**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Graduate of a Mountaineers Basic Climbing Course or have Basic Climbing Course equivalency.
- Successful completion of all Intermediate Climbing Course lectures and field trips.
- Participate on two Intermediate climbs in which the leader evaluates you as being capable of leading that climb.
- Competence in Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA, WFA or equivalent) per the Mountaineers Minimum Standards Document.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

### **2. Continuing Participation Requirements**

- Current Mountaineers member.
- Lead two climbs (Basic, Club, or Intermediate) within the last three years. A serious attempt that does not summit is sufficient to meet this requirement.
- Approval of the Climbing Committee.

## **C. *Expectations of Leaders***

- Support the Climbing Committee to fulfill its responsibilities as defined in the "Climbing Committee Responsibilities" section of this document.
- Be competent to lead the climb
- Plan meeting times and location, possible campsites, and approximate return time. Leave plans with a responsible person who can activate a rescue if necessary.
- Gain familiarity with the route through study of maps and guidebooks, and by talking to rangers or others who have climbed the route. Secure permit if required.
- Advise participants of required individual gear, and coordinate group gear.
- Appoint a first aid leader in case of emergency.
- Prohibit unprepared and incompetent participants from climbing.
- Exemplify safe climbing practices as defined in the Climbers' Code.

- Submit a climb report for each climb led through the Mountaineers website, regardless of whether the summit was reached.
- If a significant unplanned event occurs (e.g. injury, close calls), submit an Incident Report as part of the climb report. In it, record a brief factual account of what occurred including any contributing factors and lessons learned.
- If a catastrophic incident occurs and/or a call for assistance is made for Search and Rescue, notify the Mountaineers emergency contact number at 206-521-6030.

**D. *Expectations of Participants***

- Be competent in basic climbing skills
- Gain familiarity with the route through maps, guidebooks and other climbers.
- Bring required equipment, and carry some group gear.
- Be physically and mentally fit for the climb.
- Do not separate the party, except at the request of the leader.
- Comply with the leader's requests (assuming they are consistent with safe climbing practices).
- Be a member of The Mountaineers or a registered guest approved by the Everett Climb Leader

**E. *Leader Development***

- (in work to be added later)

**VI. *Equipment***

The Equipment Subcommittee stores and manages ropes and other Climbing Committee equipment (hardware, carabiners, runners, rescue sleds, first aid kits, etc...). This equipment is available for use at committee sponsored activities.

**A. *Ropes***

- New ropes will be purchased annually to meet course and branch climbing demands.
- New ropes will be used for Intermediate field trips. (At the discretion of the field trip leader, older ropes may be used to supplement Intermediate field trips.)
- Ropes over 1 year old, but less than 3 years old, will be used for Intermediate field trips.
- Ropes which are 3 years old or older, will be used for Basic field trips.
- Students, leaders, and instructors are encouraged to inspect climbing ropes before using them or checking them out of the storage area. Ropes found to have damage or unusual wear will be given to the Equipment Coordinator for disposition.

**B. *Equipment (other than ropes)***

- Students, leaders, and instructors are encouraged to inspect all personal and club owned equipment before they are used.
- Equipment found to have damage or unusual wear will be given to the Equipment Coordinator for disposition.

**C. *Gear Locker***

- Ensure security and access of the storage space.
- Coordinate with Field Trips Leaders for the issuance and return of club gear.

**D. *Inventory***

- Maintain a current inventory list, and publish it as required.
- Order ropes and equipment as approved by the Climbing Committee.

**VII. *Records***

The Climbing Committee Records Keeper is responsible for keeping accurate records of the Climbing Committee, climb

leaders, field trips instructors and climbing activities (climbs, seminars, etc.). The records keeping responsibility is shared between the Climbing Committee Records Keeper, the Climbing Committee Chair and all class coordinators. The Records Keeper should coordinate directly with the Climbing Committee and all class coordinators to agree on who owns what tasks throughout the year.

#### **A. Field Trip Instructor Records**

- Climbers who meet the initial and continuing participation requirements for Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor are eligible to be Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructors. The requirements for becoming a Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor are outlined in the *Basic Climbing Course Field Trip Instructor Requirements* section of this document.
- Field Trip Instructor additions are processed once a year after the yearly instructor review, and ad hoc as necessary throughout the year.
- Field Trip Instructor expiration dates are set to the same month and day each year so instructor status can easily be monitored and updated on a once yearly basis.

#### **B. Basic and Intermediate Climb Leader Records**

##### **1. Basic Climb Leader Records**

- Climbers who meet the initial and continuing participation requirements for Basic Climb Leaders are eligible to post and lead Basic Climbs as defined on the Mountaineers Website. The requirements for becoming a Basic Climb Leader are outlined in the *Basic Climb Leader Requirements* section of this document.
- Basic Climb Leader additions are processed at the time of Climbing Committee approval.
- Basic Climb Leader expiration dates are set to the same month and day each year so instructor status can easily be monitored and updated on a once yearly basis.

##### **2. Intermediate Climb Leader Records**

- Climbers who meet the initial and continuing participation requirements for Intermediate Climb Leaders are eligible to post and lead Intermediate Climbs as defined on the Mountaineers Website. The requirements for becoming an Intermediate Climb Leader are outlined in the *Intermediate Climb Leader Requirements* section of this document.
- Intermediate Climb Leader additions are processed at the time of Climbing Committee approval.
- Intermediate Climb Leader expiration dates are set to the same month and day each year so instructor status can easily be monitored and updated on a once yearly basis.

#### **C. Removals**

Climb leaders and field trip instructors may be removed from the Climb Leader List or Instructor List for any of the following reasons.

- Request of the individual.
- Failure to meet the continuing participation requirements for climb leaders or field trip instructors.
- Violation of club or branch climbing policies, irresponsible conduct, or flagrant safety violations. In this situation, the Mountaineers Board Policy on Problem Behavior will be followed.
- Harassment, Mountaineers Board Policy on Harassment will be followed.

#### **D. Reinstatements**

- Field Trip Instructors who have been removed from the leader list for failing to meet the continuing participation requirements may be reinstated by the Climbing Committee upon meeting the requirements.
- Climb leaders who have been removed from the leader list for failing to meet the continuing participation requirements may be reinstated by the Climbing Committee upon meeting the requirements. No petition is required if the requirements are fulfilled within one year of removal. Requirements for reinstatement after 1 year is up to the discretion of the Climbing Committee.
- Any members who have been removed due to behavioral issues or for harassment issues may petition the

Climbing Committee in writing for reinstatement. Petitioners must provide evidence that they have made concrete steps to change their behavior. Reinstatement will occur after a positive vote of two thirds of all of the members of Climbing Committee.