



Welcome to Leader Lines

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Leader Lines is a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders. This month we'll try to keep it brief but want to celebrate a huge milestone for the organization, remind you of an important date in January, and share some great lessons we learned at the (well-received) Mountaineers Leadership Conference earlier this month.

As always, I welcome your suggestions for future story ideas and THANK YOU for all your work this year! Stay safe out there playing in the snow!

--Chris Williams,
Leadership Development Manager

You did it! 100,000 miles in 2015!!!

As an organization, The Mountaineers just reached a huge milestone. Our members - through their collective trips - just passed **100,000 miles for the year** (our members registered about 800 miles on Mountaineers.org on 12/19 and 12/20 to pass this milestone)! That's a LOT of human-powered adventuring in 2015!



This includes **30 MILLION feet of elevation gain** over all of our different activities.

Want to know **which activity took top place for mileage?** Which activities were the leaders in elevation? These answers, along with some interesting comparisons to put these huge numbers into context, are all included in a blog highlighting the key results - [take a look](#).



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - January 30!

Join the Seattle Branch as we recognize the outstanding achievements of ALL Mountaineers volunteers. The event will feature **guest speaker James Edward Mills**, author of [The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors](#).

The celebration is free and open to volunteers (plus a guest) across the entire organization, but space is limited. Tickets are available on a first come first serve basis.

Join your fellow volunteers for a relaxed and inspiring evening to honor all of your efforts. [Learn more and RSVP here!](#)

Presentations from The Mountaineers Leadership Conference

We hosted a very successful Leadership Conference earlier this month and want you to know **we are planning to upload the presentations shared with those who attended**. PowerPoint slides are *available now* and videos of the sessions, as they are edited and uploaded, will be placed in the same folder (we don't have these ready yet).



Check out the "General Leadership" folder of the [Shared Activity Resources platform](#) for information on:

- [Emergency Communication Devices](#)
- [Creating Lectures that Engage, Excite, and Inform](#)
- [Appreciating Generational Diversity](#)
- [Climate Variability and Change in the Pacific Northwest](#)
- [Why you don't need to fear liability for being a Mountaineers Leader](#) (video of this will ultimately answer most questions for you)

- and many more subjects!

I want to personally thank you for attending, and express my gratitude to the volunteers who helped run and plan the conference. The [Mountaineer Adventure Club teens](#) were a huge part of putting on a successful event, but the planning committee of Erik Chelstad, Scott Davidson, Glenn Eades, Ken Hahn, Peter Hendrickson, Dawn Scata, Leah Schulz, and Cheryl Talbert deserve extra praise.

If you are curious about the feedback we received and want to see **how the conference inspired or motivated the leaders who attended**, a [general overview is available here](#). Given the feedback on scheduling - we are currently targeting Saturday December 3rd, 2016 for next year's conference!

Quick Hits

- **Coming Soon - Enhanced Committee Document Sharing:** We already have a ["Shared Activity Resources"](#) folder on Mountaineers.org, and to make it easier to share information, we have changed some settings to allow anyone listed as a "member" on a committee roster to view documents on another committee's page. Documents will only be viewable if they are "shared with committee" or "published" (you would not be able to see anything listed as "private" or "pending"). We believe this help volunteers developing new curriculum or programs from having to "reinvent the wheel". We plan on launching this functionality on or after January 18. If you have documents you want kept "private" (like a list of volunteers you want to give awards to), change their state before the 18th! All committee chairs and Secretaries have been given notice of this already.
- **The Strength of Diversity in an Organization:** Surrounding yourself with multiple viewpoints and backgrounds is more than just "political correctness," it's critical to the accurate detection of errors and preventing mishaps. These two professors describe a study that reveals how **"when participants were in diverse company, their answers were 58 percent more accurate."** The prices they chose [in an experiment on financial predictions] were much closer to the true values of the stocks. As they spent time interacting in diverse groups, their performance improved. **In homogeneous groups, whether in the United States or in Asia, the opposite happened.** When surrounded by others of the same ethnicity or race, participants were more likely to copy others, *in the wrong direction.* [Read about the study here.](#)
- **Want a goal for the new year?** Let's name a geographical feature. [This article explains the historical and legal process behind re-naming the "Salish Sea."](#) Do you have a favorite un-named location?
- **Email preference reminder:** A new member recently contacted me to ask what were the best ways to stay in touch with current events. Because leaders are the primary face of the organization for so many people, remember that **email communications are managed in the same place that you [edit your profile on](#)**

Mountaineers.org. It's also useful to follow us on social media to stay in touch ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)).

- **Important Product Recall Information:** In case you missed any of these, here are some potentially relevant product recalls you should be aware of:
 1. [CAMP USA Tour Nanotech Crampons](#) - 2015
 2. [CAMP USA Cassin Blade Runner Crampons](#) - 2015
 3. [All Black Diamond recalls](#) (**avalanche bags** - 2015, **ski poles** - 2014, **crampons** - 2007, **harness** - 2006, **ski boots** - 2005, etc.)
 4. [Mammut crevasse rescue device](#) - 2014
 5. [Petzl belay device \("Grigri 2"\)](#) - 2011

Congratulations on a great year of growth, both for our mission *and* the capacity to carry it even further in the new year! The Mountaineers assigned leader badges to 208 different people in 2015!

Enjoy the snow and - STAY ON TOP OF IT!