



Welcome to Leader Lines

Leader Lines is a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders. This month we take a deeper dive deeper an issue that will always be a recurring challenge for us, put a call out for more stewardship activities, and make a larger-than-usual number of points in our "Quick Hits" section (including [additional speakers for our Leadership Conference](#)).

Please take a look below for insights that might help you in your work with us. As always, I welcome your suggestions for future story ideas and THANK YOU for all your work this summer! Let's get ready for course season!

--Chris Williams,
Leadership Development Manager

Leadership Scenario: Who's Right?

Imagine yourself in a situation with a difficult participant. "Maria" signed up for a trip, only she shows up late, doesn't know how to use her gear, and complains of back pain. This causes you to fall behind schedule, turn around early, and miss your work dinner you had planned in the evening.

Who's at fault? You - the leader? Maria? Both of you? Read all of the scenario details and [tell us what you think here](#).



Part of running a safe activity means making sure people are prepared for it, but those rules aren't always black and white. Because we want to share our love of the outdoor with everyone and make it easier for you screen participants for safety. Last year we asked you to tell us the best approach for preventing unpreparedness on your trips. [Here's what you said](#). This scenario is meant to trigger thought and discussion about the nature of our volunteerism once a trip has already begun.

Be sure to also check out the discussion happening on our [feedback system](#) related to finding

the best way to screen participants for safety and work with your fellow leaders to assure the best possible time for all.



Stewardship: Let's Give More People a Chance to Get Involved

A recent search for "[Stewardship](#)" activities on Mountaineers.org resulted in only three activities. The Mountaineers mission has always revolved around introducing people to the natural world to create a community of stewards for its future preservation. We need to increase our impact and get more active in protecting our natural places!

If you are a leader on a committee, you can post stewardship activities on Mountaineers.org and give our members the opportunity to engage with us as caretakers of our public lands and waterways. Not a committee "leader"? Look into joining (or forming) a branch-supervised conservation committee as a way of becoming empowered to post such activities.

Think broadly! Anything from picking up trash at a trailhead to working outside improving a public park (with approval from land managers) is a **PERFECT way to represent the Mountaineers mission in your community.**

If you have questions about what may fall inside the scope of our mission, check with your committee, branch, or [Conservation & Recreation Director Katherine Hollis](#) to work through any questions. We can - and our members want to - do more!

As we grow, so can our impact!

Quick Hits

- **Resources from the Wilderness Risk Management Conference!** Every presentation from the WRMC is [available online](#). A wealth of information can guide and inform your programs, including information on:
 - [Creating an Emotionally Safe Environment on Wilderness Expeditions](#)
 - [Inclusion Tips from NOLS Field Instructors](#)
 - [Electronics for the Outdoor Leader](#), and more.

[Check them out](#) and see if they inspire you in any way.

- **Cultural Awareness:** Carolyn Finny, author of "Black Faces, White Faces", recently published an article where she uncovers the complicated history behind why the American story of nature and conservation is so 'white'. "When we think of great

conservationists, or just ordinary Americans Trekking in the outdoors, we don't typically picture black faces." Learn from her perspective and how you can make an impact [here](#).

- **Speaking of Diversity:** Historic trading routes and hunting grounds laid the groundwork for Washington's now-extensive network of trails. Washington's native tribes have strong connections to this land, and thanks to WTA you now know the story behind [8 Trails that Tell a Native American Story](#).
- **TREES!** They're kind of unbelievable. [Learn why urban trees solve so many of our problems](#).
- **Want to know when people register for/cancel from your trip?** You can now set *your trip to send you an email from Mountaineers.org* when a participant makes a change to their roster status. This option lives on the activity "edit" page in the "registration" tab (where you enter the capacity for your activity and the open and close the activity).
- **Avalanche Instruction Summit** : Anyone interested in developing our avalanche education programs should feel welcome to attend this organization-wide summit to address issues like leadership requirements, granting equivalencies between branches, minimum standards, and other issues related to avalanche instruction. [RSVP here](#).
- **Have we over-complicated this whole "leadership" thing?:** Here's an [interesting take on the subject in a Ted Talk](#) sent to us by Foothills Branch Board Rep. Cheryl Talbert. It's only 6 minutes long and reminds us that *we can positively impact people's lives in very simple ways*.
- **Mountaineers Leadership Conference:** Since we last talked, we've added Scott Schell of the Northwest Avalanche Center and Andrew Pringle of WTA as speakers for our big event. Registration is filling up fast. [Check out all of our speakers and reserve your spot now](#).

This year, The Mountaineers has issued 172 new Leader Badges, traveled 93,855 miles, and covered 28,458,646 feet in elevation (yes, that's 28 million feet). WILL WE MAKE IT TO 100,000 miles in 2015?