



Welcome to Leader Lines,

In this edition of LeaderLines, a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders, we explore opportunities to create a more inclusive community, discuss the meaning of leadership, encourage you to contribute to our photo library, and invite you to the 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. As always, all of this applies to someone, but we don't expect everyone one to be interested in all of it. Take a look and see what applies to your unique role in The Mountaineers - or your life in general.

We [welcome your suggestions](#) for future story ideas and thank you for all the ways you support our mission.

**Happy Trails,
Mountaineers Staff**

Exploring Inclusion Opportunities

Over the years, members of The Mountaineers community have worked on a number of inclusion initiatives to encourage more involvement from diverse communities. At our recent LeadershipConference, we hosted three sessions about what The Mountaineers can do to create a more inclusive community. Right now, we have two blogs to help explore these important topics:

- [Transforming Inclusion at The Mountaineers](#)
- [Women's Experiences in the Outdoors](#)

Please dive in and let us know what you think, either in the comments section or by sending us an [email](#), which we will keep anonymous. We are still working on write ups about our Diversity Panel seminar and Outdoors for Everyone seminar, so there's also more to come.

You are the Mountaineers community, and we need your help in identifying opportunity areas and finding sustainable, impactful solutions.

The Meaning of Leadership

We all lead. In this thoughtful essay by Steve Sher, we question what it means to lead and how each one of us contributes to the society we live in. [Read more.](#)



Share Your Photos

Photos from our Mountaineers community members power our newsletters, blogs, and social media. On staff, we love getting new contributions because they help us promote your courses, activities, and events. If you capture cool photos to share, please reach out to me. I'm the Communications Specialist on staff, and one of my jobs is to ~~heard-cats~~ manage our photo library.

Jokes aside, we've moved our images to a platform called SmugMug, and now it's really easy to share photos with us. In the library, we can keep track of things like location, activity, and most importantly photographer so we know where to find you.

Get started today with one of these options:

Get an Upload Link

Using SmugMug, I can create a custom upload link and share it with you. You can then upload your photos directly to our image library. To get a link, email me at peterd@mountaineers.org.

Share Your Download Link

Do you keep your photos on a platform like Dropbox, Google Photos, or iCloud? Most of these platforms allow you to share albums with others. Shoot the download link to peterd@mountaineers.org and I'll take it from there.

Thanks!
Peter Dunau,
Communications Specialist

Quick Hits

- **How Income Inequality is Hurting our Kids:** A [new study](#) found that our kids are among the least fit in the world-and our unequal income distribution likely has something to do with it.
- **March 18 - Save the Date:** Remember when we had a big party two years ago with [Alex Honnold](#) doing a tyrolean traverse across the ceiling? We're doing it again, and we want you to [be there](#).
- **Accidents at the climbing gym:** Many of you know Bill Ashby as one of our devoted volunteers. He recently joined as a member of our staff, and right before he started he was in a horrific accident at Vertical World. He's been writing about his recovery on his blog, which our Safety Chair Dave Shema has [excerpted in a blog](#). "I think the doctors thought of me as kind of an interesting jigsaw puzzle."
- **Double Your Impact:** Do you work for a company with a matching gift program? If so, your Mountaineers membership dues, individual donations, and volunteer hours may be eligible for a [corporate match](#).
- **When to retire a beacon:** "In the climbing community, the idea of retiring gear is normal.... When people upgrade their beacons, they sell their old ones on Craigslist and eBay. That transceiver, which is really unsafe to use, is being re-circulated into the backcountry. As a skiing community, [we need to think](#) about those things."
- **REC Act:** [More info](#) about the REC Act, and how it will help our cause: "Valid and reliable economic data can serve . . . to facilitate dialogue and bridge differences between competing interests." In case you missed it, here's [The Mountaineers blog](#) about the REC Act and its potential impact on our community
- **Gear Reviews:** What if gear reviews were [written by real people](#)?
- **If you build it, they will poop. A lot.** The Vantage toilet has served us faithfully - but some tasks are just too great to take on alone. [Join us](#) in asking for a second toilet at Vantage.
- **Climbers take note:** The [proposal gauntlet](#) has just been thrown.
- **Thank you volunteers!** Our volunteer instructors and activity leaders are the heart and soul of our club. This month [we celebrate](#) Foothills leaders Chris Ensor from Hiking & Backpacking and Gerry Haugen from Backcountry Skiing.

Stay Safe Out There!

Leader Badges Earned: We awarded 22 leader badges this December. Ski/Snowboard lead the way with nine new badges - a great sign for our winter programs. In total, we've awarded 551 leaderbadges in 2016! Thank you to all our new leaders and everyone who helped train them. Your commitment to sharing the gift of the outdoors makes our mission possible.

Thanks You Leaders!