



The
Mountaineers

LEADERLINES

Welcome to Leader Lines

On October 20, we said goodbye to Chris Williams as he left The Mountaineers to pursue other opportunities. In his 2+ years with our club, he made incredible strides towards bringing our community of leaders together. He launched our first Leadership Development Conference (now in its third year), facilitated conversations to build each other up, and challenged us to be better leaders. We will miss his humor, candor, and his love for bringing cookies to the office on Fridays.

A message from Chris:

I am grateful I had the chance to contribute to the mission of the Mountaineers. I'm proud of what was accomplished, regret what wasn't, and am hopeful for the future of this venerable organization. Thank you to all the volunteers for your contributions and inspiration. I believe with all my heart that helping people spend even just a little bit of time outside seeking peace of mind can do extraordinary things. Your work makes the world a better place and I wish that many of the people in the cases I handled in my legal career had been able to access the opportunities you provide to the public. Please strive to expand the reach of Mountaineers programming to more and more people. Keep up the good work and thank you for letting me be a part of it for the past few years.

LeaderLines will continue in his absence, and as always we [welcome your suggestions](#) for future story ideas and thank you for all the ways you support our mission.

In this edition of LeaderLines, a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders, we give you an update on Progressive Climbing Education, and an invite to our Leadership Conference and Leader Resource Seminars. 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.

**Happy Trails,
Mountaineers Staff**

Progressive Climbing Education

In case you haven't heard, this year our Board of Directors voted to allocate funds to a project we're calling Progressive Climbing Education. The goal is to dedicate resources to advance the goals and initiatives of our passionate volunteers. Done well, these strategic investments will make our suite of volunteer-led Climbing Programs more fun for volunteers to run, easier to recruit volunteers for, more attractive to new climbers (especially those coming out of the gym), and more advanced for our highly-skilled volunteers and students.

We've spent the past five months in an intensive discovery process, gathering input from folks within our climbing committees at all branches, from leaders in our climbing community, and from folks in our local

climbing communities who may not be associated with The Mountaineers. We've learned a lot and highly value the input we've received from our community!

On October 11, 12 and 13, we held a second round of town hall style listening sessions in the North Sound, South Sound and in Seattle. We presented [22 strategic investment options](#) that we think can move us forward in a meaningful way with our climbing education. We packaged these investment options into three approach alternatives: [incremental, comprehensive, and assertive](#). We wanted feedback on the merits and risks of each investment concept, but we also wanted to know, in general, how cautiously or aggressively we should invest.

And we still need your input! If you didn't get a chance to attend one of the listening sessions, or if you attended but have more ideas to offer, we invite you to participate in our [PCE Alternatives Survey](#). This is an important yet complicated project with lots of components, so please allow yourself a full hour to watch the slide show, think about the many concepts presented and offer thoughtful feedback. We are grateful for all of the input we receive, and it will influence the decisions we make going forward.

[Visit our blog](#) to learn more about the project and participate in the process.

Leadership Conference

This year we're excited to present our 3rd Annual Leadership Conference, a day reserved for current and aspiring leaders to foster new ideas and skills. The day has been planned and organized by you - our volunteers. Our keynote speaker will be Mike Gauthier, the current Chief of Staff at Yosemite National Park. We'll have breakout sessions by representatives from NOLS, Outward Bound, and our own Matt Palubinskas, Imran Rahman, Miles McDonough, and our Mountaineers Adventure Club. We'll also have Cliff Mass to answer all of your weather related questions. We're excited about the program!

Esteemed outdoor community speakers and interactive sessions will punctuate a program designed to enhance your leadership and personal growth. Please come and participate in this fun and exciting event spotlighting what The Mountaineers have been best at for over 100 years: Leadership Development. [Learn more.](#)

Leader Resource Seminar Recap

Mountaineers staff have been hosting evening Leader Resources Seminars for new and veteran leaders the past two months. At the seminars, we've discussed web updates, marketing strategies, and other tips & tricks to help make your programs run more smoothly and engage more people. So far we've held seminars in Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, and Everett, and we're working on scheduling one for Kitsap. If you weren't able to attend or you'd like to reference the material, you can [download the presentation](#) from our website.

The next seminar will take place at the Foothills branch on Dec 13. [Join us!](#)

Quick Hits

- **Navigating loose rock:** A friend of mine used to joke about climbing in the Olympics, "if you don't like your options for handholds, pick the rock up and move it somewhere else." [Learn about](#) the hazards and how to deal with them.
- **Playing nice with your cell phone:** Notice anything....different....about us lately? We have a new [mobile friendly website!](#)
- **"Climate change is affecting America's recreation** meccas-from Yosemite to Yellowstone-in profound ways. As the planet heats up and weather patterns shift, so will the ways we interact with the outdoors."
- **One of these knots can kill you.** Northeast Alpine Start notes that "it seems every year we lose climbers to a simple user error that can occur when joining two ropes together for a rappel." They explain [the dos and don'ts](#).
- **Curators Wanted:** We're adding a folder to Routes & Places to store downloadable customized maps, GPS tracks, and more. [Can you help us curate it?](#)
- **Diversity in Climbing:** "Having someone else tell me what people of my race do and don't do only made me recoil further away from the only two communities I had ever belonged to." [An essay](#) from climber Indigo Johnson.
- **Incident Report Data:** David Shema, Chair of the Safety Committee, has once again crunched some numbers to give us a great overview of our incident reporting for September. [Take a look at how it breaks down](#). Thanks Dave!
- **Yikes!** Climber [loses finger tips](#) in crack.
- **Scrambling Summit:** Do you care about our scrambling programs? [Attend the summit!](#)
- **Sustainable Climbing:** As climbing grows, our communities are faced with new opportunities as well as challenges. Join us at [The Northwest Sustainable Climbing Conference](#) to explore future partnerships.

Stay Safe Out There!