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The
Mountaineers

LEADERLINES

Welcome to LeaderLines,

Before we get into our regularly scheduled programming, we want to take a moment to acknowledge National Volunteer Week. At The Mountaineers, we can't say enough about all the amazing volunteers who make our organization possible, but Becca Polglase, our Director of Education, comes pretty close with her personal blog "[The Benevolent Power of Volunteers.](#)" As she says, "Our volunteers are the creators, the shapers, and the tenders of the beautiful, humble, supportive, and powerful community that is The Mountaineers." Thank you for all that you do!

In this edition of LeaderLines, we delve into the meaning of adventure, explore different leadership styles, and discuss navigation gear. Plus, we introduce our new education managers Sara and Steve, and share some important updates about access and parking at two of our favorite climbing areas.

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**

How Do You Define Adventure?

The Mountaineers are bold explorers - driven by imagination, outdoor challenge, and the spirit of discovery, and Adventure is a [core value](#) of our community. Recently on [Facebook](#), we asked you to share what adventure means to you and received inspiring feedback:

From member Josephine Johnson: "Adventure is the catalyst that launches me into the unknown and spits me out the other end with flushed cheeks, a smile on my face, and a deep resolve to do it all again!"

From member (and leader) Nik Jensen: "To me, adventure is exploring places I've never been before; furthering my knowledge of the world around me. Adventure can also be going beyond what I think I might be able to accomplish. There's often a subtle fear of the unknown coupled with a curiosity and wonderment for what I might see or feel, simultaneously, when I'm out there."

From member Tricia Belecastro: "For me, adventure = the freedom to be who I am. My drive to experience adventures allowed me to break out of the societal 'norm' put upon girls at a young age to act a certain way and move through life in a pre-determined path. In high school, a guidance counselor, upon learning that I wanted to attend university in Montana (I'm originally from Ohio), told me to just go to the state school and find a nice boy to marry and have kids. I went to Montana. And that was the beginning of a life of adventure through hiking, backpacking, skydiving, rappelling, biking, snowshoeing, skiing, and more. I've travelled all over the world experiencing different cultures, and I've seen places on this Earth that few ever get to see. Adventuring has allowed me myriad experiences that define who I am, and allows me to be who I want to be. To twist John Muir's famous quote "Adventure is calling, and I must go".

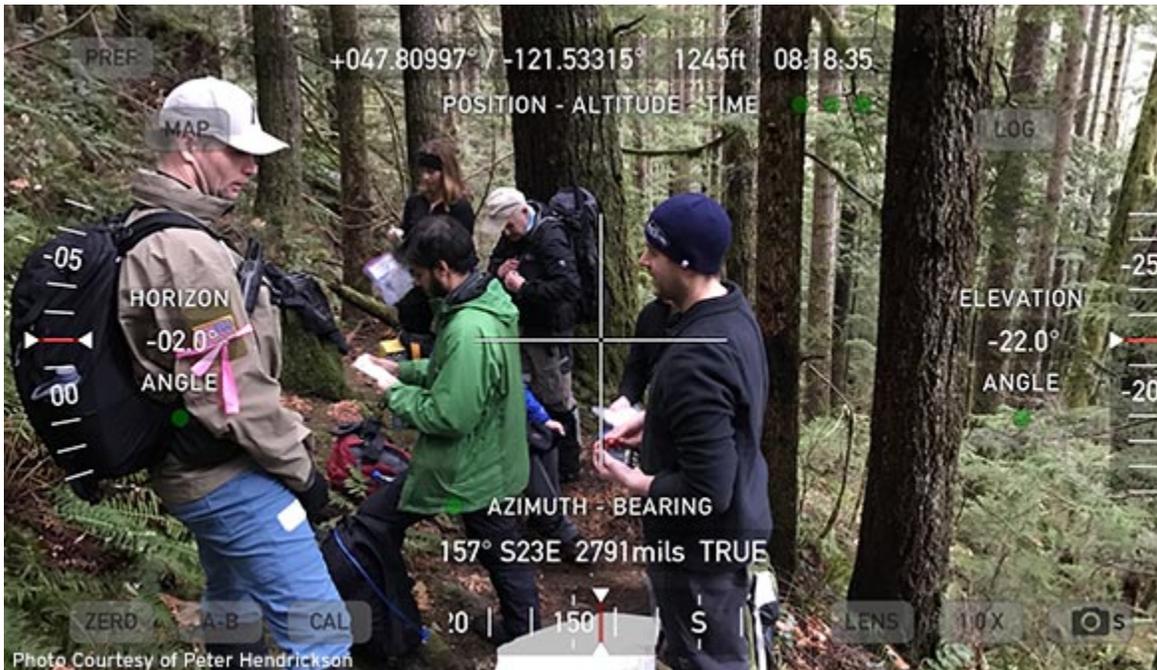
From member (and leader) Steve Payne: "Adventure for me is taking a group to a wild place that I know well but is new to them. I experience it anew through their eyes! [Read all the comments here.](#)



What's Your Leadership Style? Why Does It Matter?

Tess Wendel, Member and Volunteer Support Manager

Last month I had the opportunity to participate in a rock climbing leadership course with about 20 other Mountaineers leaders and instructors. The first seminar focused on identifying personal leadership styles. I discovered my leadership style is a *spontaneous motivator*. My initial thought was "what the heck does that mean? Does that mean I'm just a cheerleader with no substance? Don't I get stuff done? I should be a *driver* (the name of another leadership style)." [Read more about leadership styles](#) and why you might want to switch up your style every so often.



The Frugal Navigator - How To Find Your Way on the Cheap

Mountaineering is an expensive sport. With a fixed amount of money, do you go for: Gore-Tex undies, an ice ax made of sleek unobtanium, or a compass (let's face it, a shiny new cam is way sexier than a compass)? John Godino, the Mazamas main navigation instructor, is here with some great tips on how navigate without breaking the bank. [Read more.](#)

This article originally appeared in [Navigation Northwest](#), a quarterly publication issued by The Mountaineers Seattle Navigation Committee. Check out the whole publication [here.](#)

Parking Notice - Sam Hill (Leavenworth)

In the last couple weeks, "No Parking" signs have appeared at the parking area for the Fridge boulder and Sam Hill climbing area. We are working with the property owner of that pullout, the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, to resolve the issue. The Hatchery uses the pullout daily when accessing the nearby dam. As we come to a solution very soon that ensures parking availability for climbers and hikers, please respect the signage. We will post updates to the [Sam Hill \(Leavenworth\)](#) listing under Routes & Places on our website.

Closure Notice - Tieton Royal Columns Area

This week, the Price of Complacency column fell in Tieton and the Royal Columns area is closed while the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife assess the area's safety. Please choose other crags and climbing areas for your weekend's adventures, and [follow us on Facebook](#) for updates on the closure.



Join us in Welcoming Sara and Steve

Sara Ramsay, our new Kayak, Hike & Ski Education Manager, started on April 17. Sara comes to us from Outdoors for All, where she supported volunteers in a variety of ways. She worked with key volunteers to completely revamp the volunteer training and onboarding structure, bringing the policies and procedures up to industry standards. We're excited to have Sara join our team to support the innovation, development and success of our volunteers. In her role at The Mountaineers, she will provide support for our Kayak, Hike, and Nordic Ski programs, as well as Navigation, Naturalists, and Photography. She'll work with the Climbing Education Manager to coordinate the Leadership Conference and other organization-wide volunteer leader events. In her first two weeks, she's spent time in the Tacoma Basic Sea Kayak program and in the Kitsap and Olympia Hiking programs. If you have a course or trip you'd like her to participate in – either as a student or instructor, get in touch with her at SaraR@mountaineers.org.

Steve Smith, our new Climbing Education Manager, will start on May 22. Steve comes to us with more than 20 years' experience in outdoor education and risk management, bringing a broad spectrum of knowledge from organizations like Outward Bound, NOLS, and the Student Conservation Association. Steve served on the Wilderness Risk Management Conference Committee for seven years, including 3 years as Conference Chair, and sits on the NW Outward Bound Board of Directors. He has built strong relationships with key leaders in the outdoor industry both regionally and nationally. In his role, he will be working with our climbing committees to provide support and to drive our Progressive Climbing Education initiative forward. He'll work directly with the Climbing Technical Advisory Committee, the Climbing Curriculum Committee, the Climbing Leadership Progression Design Group, and the Climbing Summits. Steve will also work with our Scramble, Snowshoe, Backcountry Ski, and Avalanche folks to provide support through summits and as needed. He'll work closely with Sara on organization-wide leadership events like the Leadership Conference and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We're

very excited to welcome Steve to our team! He can be reached at steves@mountaineers.org.

Learn more about Sara and Steve, including full bios and experience, in our [latest blog on PCE](#).

Quick Hits

- **The American Dream?** "If our American culture has one fatal flaw, it is our obsession with comfort. In almost every aspect of the so-called "American Dream," the main goal, the main objective, is achieving a state of comfort, insulating and protecting ourselves from the difficulties and challenges in the world around us." [Check out](#) this manifest of for doing hard things.
- **40% of Black Diamond for volunteers!** If you volunteer 5+ times in a calendar year, you qualify for volunteer level benefits through Experticity, giving you access to an additional 200+ brands. New this month: Black Diamond, offering our volunteers a 40% savings on Black Diamond favorites like headlamps, ropes, skis, cams, and more. [Visit our team page to learn more and apply.](#)
- **Looking for help with Pikas!** They're cute, they're furry, and spotting them can help fight climate change. [Join us](#) in helping track these "potato sized rock rabbits."
- **Introducing Intro to Alpine Rock** - What is Intro to Alpine Rock? This course is a pilot course offered by the Seattle branch this spring. It covers the rock skills needed to follow a multi pitch alpine trad climb. This course combined with the scrambling course and glacier travel covers all the skills learned in basic alpine climbing. [Learn more.](#)
- **Reminder - Free Instructor Desk Copies from Mountaineers Books!** Teaching a course? Well you can get a "desk copy" of any text you plan on using from Mountaineers Books! As you post your course online, you can request a free copy of the book and we'll send it to you.
- **Leader Resource Webinars** - Pick up website tips and tricks from The Mountaineers Volunteer Support Manager on [May 16](#) from 7pm-9pm. Busy May 16? Check out the April 24th webinar [recorded online](#).
- **Busting the Tree Ring** - How a landmark investigation [unraveled a Washington timber-poaching gang](#). (Interesting side note: Peter Hendrickson and Brian Starlin stumbled upon one of the crime scenes two years ago, while prepping the Heybrook Ridge site for navigation field trips.
- **Volunteers needed for OPYA** - Last year we started an annual fundraiser for youth programs called Our Parks | Your Adventure (OPYA), celebrating our public lands. We're searching for volunteers like Richard to adventure while supporting The Mountaineers. [Read about his project "Dick's RASH" and sign up for Team OPYA.](#)
- **Buy One, Donate One** - A teacher's budget for supplies is small - let's give them a hand! When you buy a copy of the our new [Pacific Northwest coloring book](#), you will also

donate a copy to a deserving middle school student.

- **Enjoying The Outdoors With New Knees** - After a decade of not being able to hike (or even stand without pain), this [inspiring Mountaineer](#) is looking forward to a summer of outdoor exploration with the help of two knee replacements. Wow! This is guaranteed to motivate you to get out the door for your next alpine start.

Leader Badges: We awarded 51 leadership badges in March. Thanks new leaders! And thanks to everyone who helped train them!

Thank you for subscribing! Follow us online:



www.mountaineers.org

The Mountaineers enriches lives and communities by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

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