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## LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



### Welcome,

Happy Holidays from all of us at The Mountaineers! As we think ahead to the New Year, it's important to reflect on this past year and all that we collectively accomplished. Last fiscal year, we had a record **2,613 unique volunteers** supporting our programs - of those individuals, 317 were recognized as Super Volunteers for their commitment of 15 or more volunteer instances, and 74 led 10 or more trips! All of that volunteer leadership represents an extraordinary amount of adventure, but as you know, we're not just about adventure - we are about adventure with a purpose. Thank you for all that you have done to uphold, support, and embody that mission to *explore, conserve, learn about, and enjoy* in 2017.

For the two of us personally, 2017 also brought new job opportunities and employment with The Mountaineers. We're thankful for this outstanding community of outdoor enthusiasts, educators, and protectors of wild places! It has been wonderful getting to know so many of you throughout all of the branches, and we can't wait for the next opportunity to get out of the office and into the field during a course or activity. Thank you for the many hours spent paddling, hiking, climbing, mountaineering, and working alongside you this past year. Seeing so many of us all together in one place for the Leadership Conference in early December was certainly a highlight!

Wishing each of you a safe, happy, and adventurous New Year! Cheers to many more.

**Sara Ramsay and Steve Smith,**  
**Adult Education Managers**

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### Leader Spotlight: Kyle Breakey

Leader Spotlight is a monthly showcase of the incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. It is a platform for our leaders to share tips and tricks, favorite memories, and inspiration for new and rising leaders. For our Leader Spotlight this month we talked to Kyle Breakey, a volunteer with the Bellingham Branch who sees a huge value in mentorship for leaders at The Mountaineers, both as a mentor and a mentee.

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### **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner | Jan 27**

Register now for the organization-wide [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#) on Saturday, January 27. This event is open to volunteers from all branches, as well as their guests, and the evening program includes the presentation of each **Branch Service Award**, as well as **The Mountaineers Service Award**, **The Mountaineers Leader of the Year** award, and the **Youth Service Award**. Join us in celebrating one another, and our outstanding community of volunteers. Dinner is complimentary and there is no cost to attend. This year's Keynote Presenter will be Jeff Renner, local meteorologist and Mountaineers Books author!

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### **Lessons Learned: South Climbing Wall - Student Rappels Off End of Rope**

Near misses and incidents can occur even under the watchful eye of instructors in classroom settings. It's important to make sure that we develop good habits in safe learning environments, so that we have those same good habits in more remote or unforgiving places. A recent incident shows us the dangers of complacency or distraction during rappel instruction/practice.

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## Quick Hits

- **No one likes conflict on a trip into the outdoors.** Join Mountaineers volunteer leader Tom Unger for a [free workshop](#) on how to form enjoyable, cohesive teams for your future group adventures!
- **Thank You** to everyone who attended our fourth annual Leadership Conference! If you missed it or are looking for more info about your favorite presentation, check out our [recap blog](#).
- **Is nature a white thing?** Many of our volunteers are interested in learning more about the topics of diversity and inclusion in the outdoors, and specifically, how they relate to The Mountaineers and our leaders. IA's Joshua Johnson offers some relevant context about African-Americans' complicated relationship with the great outdoors [in this podcast](#), discussing why this is a real issue that we should all care about. Give it a listen during your next trip to the mountains.
- **Alpine Skills Development Program in Canmore and Beyond!** We're building a team of more skilled alpinists to give back to branches across the organization. Phase One is underway and is [outlined here](#). Stay tuned for Phase Two - building rock skills in Squamish!
- **Remembering Fred Beckey:** For those of you who were unable to come to our Fred Beckey celebration of life, here's the [opening video](#) created by Lowell Skoog.
- **A very green perspective:** The United States [mapped](#) by trees and forests.
- **Investing in eLearning:** As a part of Vision 2022, The Mountaineers have made a [strategic investment](#) to use eLearning as a way to complement our existing courses.
- **You belong here:** "To be a fat woman and climb a mountain is a [revolutionary act](#): You have not waited for permission (you don't need it), and in claiming your own space, you're envisioning a universe that doesn't quite exist and bending the world slightly toward that vision."
- **Photos to share?** Photos from our Mountaineers community power our newsletters, blogs, and social media. Donating pics is easy! Contact Peter Dunau at [peterd@mountaineers.org](mailto:peterd@mountaineers.org) to learn how.
- **For your bucket list:** The U.S. now has its first International [Dark Sky Reserve](#) - a 1,400-square-mile area in central Idaho where dust clouds in the Milky Way are

visible.

- **Leader Discounts!** Volunteer leaders at The Mountaineers have access to a wide variety of pro deals. New this month, we've added Outdoor Research and Outdoor Prolink. Please visit the [Leader Benefits](#) page to access these discounts - and remember to respect all pro deal parameters, to ensure that you and others have access to these discounts for many years to come!

**Stay Safe Out There!**

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

Thank you for subscribing! Follow us online:



[www.mountaineers.org](http://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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