



## Welcome to LeaderLines,

In this edition of LeaderLines, a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders, we provide an update on Progressive Climbing Education, announce our new Low Impact Skills Badge, address car prowls in the Seattle Program Center parking lot, and share tips on tire chain requirements. 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

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### Progressive Climbing Education Update

We want to thank those of you who participated in our Progressive Climbing Education initiative. Last year was an intensive 6 months of discovery: clarifying our needs and priorities, brainstorming solutions, and identifying ways to move forward both quickly and cautiously.

We have an incredible community and everyday more people are seeking to become a part of it - we want to welcome them because they are our future volunteers and advocates for our public lands. We are both protective of our volunteer culture and motivated to invest in our volunteers as our most valued resource.

We're excited about the ideas that have come out of this discovery process and we believe they can support our community, enhance the volunteer experience, and broaden our reach. We also acknowledge that the work has just begun. The next step is to bring together the right people to start working on the various pieces of the plan. We hope many of you are excited to get started.

Becca Polglase, our education director, has been coordinating the efforts for PCE. She's happy to share the [final PCE report](#) with you as well as some good news: at this month's Mountaineers Board of Directors meeting the overall plan for PCE was ratified and funding for the fiscal 2017 roadmap (\$131K) was approved. PCE will be a multi-year effort but this decision will enable us to make a significant step forward in the coming year. In the next few months, we will be hiring a [Climbing Education Manager](#) and their counterpart (which will fill a redesigned version of Chris Williams' position), a [Kayak, Hike & Ski Education Manager](#). You can click on the links to see the job postings, and please do pass these along to anyone you think might be interested.

We'll also begin recruiting for our four organization-wide committees: [Climbing Technical Advisory Committee](#), [Climbing Access & Stewardship Committee](#), [Leadership Progression Design Group](#), and [Climbing Curriculum Committee](#). While the immediate focus will be on the first two, there are [interest forms online](#) for all four committees, and we encourage all of you to consider joining a committee and/or recommending someone who you think would be an asset.

We'll be posting a detailed blog update in the next week or so, so keep an eye open for that or read up on the project [here](#), and please as always [let us know](#) if you have any questions or bright ideas!

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### **Helping You Create Good Stewards**

The Mountaineers prides itself on creating stewards for our lands as part of the courses you teach, and becoming a good steward starts with low impact recreation skills!

To help you teach these skills, we created a [video series teaching low impact recreation skills](#). These videos show Mountaineers enjoying the outdoors, while outlining ways to lessen our impact when traveling, camping, eating, and using the bathroom outside. The main goal in creating these videos is to share transferrable skills to help each of us lessen our impact. Some of our courses have designated Leave No Trace components, but often we have a limited time to cover these skills and we don't have the opportunity to review them. The online videos are an excellent way to teach and review.

As an added bonus, the video series is connected to an online quiz that - when completed - awards a [Low Impact Skills badge](#)! The series helps us in other ways too. When people visit [mountaineers.org](#) to view these backcountry skills they become more familiar with the website, and it gives us an opportunity to evaluate e-learning methods that we could apply to future curriculum in other courses.

Please take a look at the videos online, take the quiz, earn the badge, and then share the quiz with upcoming students. You could include it as part of an intro email to students or a homework assignment, or show the videos during a seminar if it makes sense. Whatever is easiest for you, we hope these are a helpful resource.

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### **Car Prowls at the Seattle Program Center**

Last week we were honored to host Leif and Jim Whittaker at our Seattle Program Center as part of our [BeWild Speaker Series](#). The sold-out event was attended by an enthusiastic and engaged audience, who were especially lucky to see newly unearthed images from the Whittaker archives.

After the event, we learned that about six cars in Magnuson Park were broken into during the show, and unfortunately this was not the first time cars have been damaged in the parking lot. The following day, we contacted all of the attendees to coordinate efforts to file the appropriate

reports, etc., and to try and determine any pattern to the break-ins. At this time, we are aware of mostly rifling through belongings within the vandalized vehicles, only one package stolen, and no specific pattern as far as vehicle type.

The safety of our participants and their belongings is very important to The Mountaineers, and we have been working with the city on pedestrian and parking improvements on an ongoing basis. We have immediate plans to add lighting to the south plaza parking area as part of our Friction Slabs capitol project, but we agree even more needs to be done. On Tuesday night, our Operations Director Bill Ashby attended the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) meeting on the topic of pedestrian/traffic safety for Sand Point Way. The meeting was well attended with over 100 participants, and we learned about the future plans for Sand Point Way to reduce the number of lanes and create designated bus stop areas and turn lanes. At the meeting, we also learned about additional SDOT funding we can apply for to improve safety in Magnuson Park. We will continue to work toward a solution with SDOT, neighbors, and other Magnuson Park tenants, while continuing to evaluate other possibilities to improve safety at our late night events, including the possibility of parking lot patrols.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we work to make necessary improvements. If you have suggestions, please contact [BillA@mountaineers.org](mailto:BillA@mountaineers.org).

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### A Head's Up on Tire Chains

Those who drive mountain roads take note: chains are required to be carried by all vehicles when roads are posted "chains required." One of our members has generously passed along some tips about when, where, and how to play the chain game:

In Olympic National Park, between November 20 and May 1, all vehicles traveling on the Hurricane Ridge Road above Heart O' the Hills entrance station are required to carry tire chains. In Mt. Rainier National Park, all vehicles are required to carry chains on any roads. Rainier has a chain [webpage](#) you can visit.

Some vehicles have narrow clearance between the tire and brake parts for chains. If this is the case for you, you might try checking out the [Peerless Chain Company](#) and searching for type "S" chains in your vehicle make. Do your homework to make sure it's a good fit for your vehicle.

Good luck out there and stay safe!

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### Quick Hits

- **What is that new Payment Pending status?** On the old website we had three participant statuses for courses: Registered, Waitlisted, and Cancelled. When we launched the new site we created the new status of Offered. This allows the system to hold a spot for someone on the waitlist for up to 5 days to give them a chance to pay and officially register online. If you see Offered on your roster, we have sent that individual an email and they have 5-days to respond before the spot will be offered to the next person on the waitlist. We also added Payment Pending, a new category to indicate when something is in someone's shopping cart, giving them 30-minutes to

checkout before the spot expires. If you are looking at your roster and you see someone in "Payment Pending" you can assume that person is checking out and will soon be registered on your roster.

- **It's on us to [make this community better](#):** "This is where the norms need to evolve. These teachable moments aren't just a chance to alter one person's behavior, they represent a brick in the foundation of a better community culture that we can, and should be seeking to build."
- **We are [stronger together](#):** We also believe we're stronger together. A nice piece from our friends at the Access Fund.
- **Ice climbing safety:** Check out [this video](#) showing the importance of proper protection placement and belayer location. (Teaser: It involves a humongous chunk of ice.)
- **Shape the future of Smith Rock:** Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is collecting public feedback on their Smith Rock State Park Plan which hasn't been updated since 1991. If you are near Portland, you can attend the public meeting on Tuesday. Or provide your feedback by taking [this survey](#). Read more about the plan and the planning process [here](#).
- **Camping while female:** "Plenty of people are hesitant to camp solo, but for women, many of whom deal with catcalls during mundane morning jogs, it's harder to dismiss imagined sexual predators lurking in the woods." The author explores [why she heads out alone](#) anyway.
- **Want to take more of a leadership role in maintaining the trails we love? [Sign up](#)** for our one-day class to really get your hands dirty.
- **Action Alert!** The 115th Congress spent the first day of its new session making it easier to sell off our public lands. [We need your voice](#) to speak to the intrinsic and economic value of our public lands for us and future generations.

**Leader Badges Earned:** We awarded 22 leader badges this December. Ski/Snowboard led the way with nine new badges - a great sign for our winter programs. In total, **we 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!**