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**Welcome,**

In this edition of LeaderLines, we take a moment to reflect on a recent tragedy for The Mountaineers. Earlier this week, we were devastated to learn of [Sue Bennett's passing](#) on a Mountaineers climb in North Cascades National Park. Sue was a 15-year member and a leader in our Bellingham Branch, receiving last year's Branch Service Award for her leadership and dedication. She is a beloved member of The Mountaineers' community who will be deeply missed.

The impact of Sue's loss will be felt far and wide for many years to come, and we know this time may be particularly difficult or painful for our tight community. In the coming weeks and months - as always - please know that our staff are available to support those who are impacted by this tragedy.

**Sara and Steve,  
Education Managers**

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### **Leader Spotlight: Sherrie Trecker**

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 Sherrie Trecker, a Climb Leader who knows how to delegate, wants to inspire more women's leadership, and always has a bag of gummies in her backpack.

[Read more](#)



### **Leader Logistics**

In this new segment of Leader Lines, staff share nuggets of information and administrative updates that pertain to our volunteer leadership. Questions, or an issue that you'd like to see addressed? Please contact [Sara Ramsay](#).

### **Participation Notes**

Participation Notes are a crucial component of The Mountaineers' internal reporting and tracking process. Please take a few minutes to review when and how to use them on our [new blog post](#).

### **Independent Contractors**

Are you planning to hire an "outside" (non-Mountaineers) instructor to support your course, seminar, or clinic? Please make sure to complete the [Independent Contractor Packet](#) in advance of their event! This packet includes everything you need, including a contract template and a blank W-9.

### **Liability Insurance**

Liability insurance can be confusing, and we want folks to know who is covered, when, and why. Here's the quick and dirty: Volunteers are covered by The Mountaineers' liability insurance when their activity is correctly posted on the website in advance of the activity's start date. Students or participants of any activity are not covered by The Mountaineers' liability insurance. [Read more here](#).

### **Who do I go to if I have a question about \_\_\_\_?**

Most of the time, your best bet is to start with our Member Services team! Member Services

works tirelessly to answer your questions, and they can always direct you to the best point of contact. 206-521-6001 or [info@mountaineers.org](mailto:info@mountaineers.org).

Looking for additional information? You can always check-out our newly updated [Leader Resources](#) page for more tips, tricks, and resources!



### Lesson Learned

In the spirit of continuing to reinforce our culture of learning from near misses, we look to a recent weather incident as a reminder of the dangers associated with flash floods in the mountains.

[Read more](#)

### Quick Hits

- **Where are The Mountaineers going next?** CEO Tom Vogl is leading Vision 2022, a project to create our next strategic plan. YOUR VOICE is necessary in this process. [Check out the latest](#) in this process and please mark your calendar to join us in late-September/early-October for listening sessions, and keep your eyes peeled for a survey in the next few weeks.
- **Leadership Conference:** Save the date for The Mountaineers' fourth annual [Leadership Conference](#) on December 3. Registration opens on September 15, and all leaders will receive a promo code to attend for \$25. We are still seeking speakers! If you know or

- **Did you know?** You can double your impact through [workplace giving](#).
- **NEW Volunteer Discount - Icebreaker 40% off!** We've partnered with Icebreaker to bring our volunteers 40% off merino wool. Check out your Icebreaker pro deal - and your other exclusive volunteer benefits - [here](#). And remember with great benefits comes a responsibility to act in good faith. The first rule of pro deals is do not talk about pro deals!
- **Are you an expert? Well, thankfully, it's 2017, and everyone can be one.** [A tongue in cheek guide](#) to "establish yourself at the top of the hierarchy of trail users" this summer.
- **Do you know your EQ?** How does Emotional Intelligence impact your leadership? Sara Ramsay, Education Manager, [shares some thoughts](#) from a recent training.
- **Red sky at night, sailor's delight.** [The science, or lack thereof](#), behind some common weather predicting proverbs.
- **Who should promote gear?** "I find it insulting when major brands choose fashion models instead of real athletes. That tells me they value a certain look and body type over my own skill and the fact that I actually use their performance clothing to *perform*." – [A piece from Sasha DiGiulian](#).
- **What is silence?** "There are, supposedly, just a dozen places left in the continental United States where one can sit for 15 minutes without hearing a human-created sound. Not one of those places is east of the Mississippi River; you can't find a single such location in all of Europe. [One of the last silent places](#) is the Hoh Rain Forest at the center of Olympic National Park...."
- **A reminder to Leave No Trace:** "Okay people, it's time to [talk about poop](#). Yes, I know there's a time and a place. That's exactly why we want to talk about it."

### **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.