



# LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



## Welcome,

What a month it has been at The Mountaineers! In case you missed it, we hosted our [annual Gala](#) on April 14, surpassing our fundraising goal and raising more than \$350,000 to support our incredible programs. We also staged a full-on media takeover, using the entirety of [National Volunteer Week](#) to recognize and thank the thousands of individuals who make The Mountaineers such a strong and vibrant community.

In this edition of LeaderLines, we seek applicants for our next Alpine Ambassadors trip to Squamish, we review several timely incidents and lessons learned, and we provide information about how you can support and contribute to your branch's homepage. And of course, we provide a wide variety of Quick Hits to satisfy all readers' interests!

Thanks for that you do to support The Mountaineers, and we hope that you enjoy this month's LeaderLines!

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



### **Leader Spotlight: Jill Uthoff**

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Jill Uthoff. She is a Tacoma-based volunteer who loves to climb, and her favorite piece of gear is a trucker hat... the more ridiculous the better! We would also like to applaud Jill for her time and leadership as a member of the Progressive Climbing Education Curriculum Committee.

[Read More](#)



### **Alpine Ambassadors: Squamish Application Open**

We're seeking applications from volunteers at all branches to join us for the next Alpine Ambassadors trip to Squamish, BC, as part of our Progressive Climbing Education (PCE) initiative. All qualified climbers are encouraged to apply. Take your climbing to the next level with skilled volunteers and professional guides!

[Learn More](#)



### **Lessons Learned: Double Feature!**

Springtime means changing weather and trail conditions that warrant extra care and consideration, as the number of outdoor users also ramps up.

Below are three incidents and articles that reinforce lessons learned and foster hazard awareness, including the hazard of human errors, in springtime avalanche conditions. Whether you are leading a group or participating as a member of a group, everyone has a responsibility to pay attention to conditions, be on the same page with your team members, and speak up when you have concerns.

- [Granite Mountain - April Avalanche Time](#), The Mountaineers
- [Spring Avalanche Hazard](#), Off-Piste
- [Skier Saved from Deep Under Rockies Avalanche](#), Gripped

The spring weather (changeable as it may be) can also lead to an increase in people getting out on the water in various types of watercraft. Here are some helpful reminders about group management and the important role which field communication technology (such as radios) can play to add layers of risk management to your trip.

- [VHF Radios and Safety 101 for Sea Kayakers](#), The Mountaineers





### Leader Logistics: How to Enhance Your Branch Homepage

Are you interested in updating the content on your branch’s homepage? Our [branch pages](#) utilize the “collection” functionality to be “responsive,” meaning the different “collection hubs” will pull in the most recent information. This helps you highlight upcoming events at your branch and feature stories from your branch community.

What makes a great branch homepage? Branch pages are more vibrant and comprehensive when our members frequently contribute content to our blog! Consider [writing a blog post](#) to advertise upcoming courses or events, to recap and review past events, or to celebrate your community’s successes! In addition to your branch’s blog content, The Mountaineers also includes blogs about org-wide events and updates that are relevant to all members and volunteers on branch pages. And be sure you’re using your branch tag on all branch events!

Want to take it a step further? Consider coordinating the blog content on your Branch homepage with [your branch’s eNewsletter](#)! For more information, contact your branch’s eNewsletter editor or email [Peter Dunau](#).

### Quick Hits

- **Change in Seattle Program Center Wifi Access.** If you’ve visited the Seattle Program Center in the past month, you may have noticed you need to accept “terms & conditions” to access the mtn\_public WiFi system. If you are not automatically prompted to accept these, please visit your device’s WiFi settings and look for an “attention required” message and link to resolve. If there’s no such message or you’re not automatically directed to the “terms & conditions” page after clicking to resolve, you may also need to open an internet browser on your device to view and accept the “terms & conditions.”

- **Take the stewardship challenge!** This year the Olympia Mountaineers is challenging Mountaineers members to spend a day in service to our remarkable public lands. Learn how you can [join the challenge](#), document your service, and play a vital role in caring for our public lands.
- **A personal story about volunteers' hidden impact.** "I choked back tears and tried to regain my composure. I don't remember what we talked about during the walk, but he didn't dwell on my failure. He showed me the proper way to bury stakes in the snow and helped me get the tent set up." [Read more.](#)
- **From our magazine...**"Before I climb, I count the ounces that I carry on my back judiciously. Prudent and discerning, I take only what I need and leave the rest behind. The heaviest load, however, is invisible. Homophobia, fatphobia, and racism take up space in my life — on my back — and weigh me down." [Read more.](#)
- **Calling all gear heads!** The Mountaineers is building a new gear library for youth programs, and we need your help. Spend the day organizing and labeling gear that will serve youth without access to the resources they need to enjoy our beautiful PNW. Join us for however long you can and please [RSVP](#).
- **Watermelon Snow.** We're excited to partner with Dr. Kodner and her students from Western Washington University on a citizen science project this summer related to snow algae. [Learn how](#) you can help.
- **Self-Assessment** - Want to streamline learning while empowering your students all at once? Using [self-assessment tools](#) is a great way to foster more dialogue and empower students to take charge of their own learning.
- **More people outside.** The hikers in our area have [increased seven times faster](#) than the population overall.
- **Trailhead Direct:** Starting this month, you'll be able to get from Seattle to a pretty good day hike [without a car](#). Next month, it'll get even better.
- **A local hero.** "Yay! Mountains!" reads one bumper sticker. "Yay! Hiking!" reads the other. If Annemarie's life can be summed up in a bumper-sticker ethos, [that's it](#).
- **For some brevity.** "Want to climb the Seven Summits? Sure you do. Want to pony up \$157,000 (not including flights)? If the answer to that second question is 'no,' [check out](#) these less expensive, yet still extreme, adventures."

### **~~Stay Safe Out There!~~**

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

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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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