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# LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



**Welcome,**

With the coming and going of the [winter solstice](#), we've officially entered the start of winter - which means more snow in the mountains, more rain in the lowlands, and the slow and steady lengthening of our daylight hours. As we think ahead to the New Year, we also take a moment to reflect upon all that we've [collectively accomplished](#) in 2018.

Last fiscal year, an outstanding **2,865 volunteers** supported our Mountaineers programs. Of those individuals, 370 were recognized as Super Volunteers for their commitment to volunteering 15 or more times, and 86 volunteers led 10 or more trips, receiving recognition as Key Leaders in our community! In total, that volunteerism amounts to nearly 200,000 hours of time dedicated to helping our members explore, conserve, learn about, and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our programs, and Happy Holidays from all of us at The Mountaineers!

**Sara Ramsay & Nick Block**  
**Education Department**

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### **Leader Spotlight: Bill Coady**

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Bill Coady. He is a sea kayaking and cross-country ski leader who plays the drums and loves being a grandparent!

[Read More](#)



### **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Register Today**

Registration is open for the organization-wide Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, January 26. This event is open to volunteers from all branches and their guests! 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 Martinique Grigg Leadership in Youth Education Award. Join us in celebrating one another and our outstanding community of volunteers. Dinner is complimentary and there is no cost to attend!

[Register Today](#)

We're excited to announce this year's Keynote Presenters, our very own Ida Vincent and Tammy Martin! This year's theme is all about community, and we couldn't think of two better women to share their stories of how our community at The Mountaineers has impacted and shaped their lives.

[Read More](#)



### **Lessons Learned: Risk Management Within Controlled Environments**

As winter sets in and you find yourself training indoors or running training sessions for your students, it's important to remember that we must be vigilant to prevent accidents. Whether you are at the gym, a Mountaineers program center, or in a kayaking pool session, it can be easy to assume that our safety is being controlled and managed within these indoor spaces. The reality is that accidents can and do still happen, even to the most experienced of us. This reminder from Rock & Ice magazine illustrates the perils we face even within a supposedly safe environment.

[Learn More](#)



### **Leader Logistics: Introducing Outdoor Advocates Network**

At a time when public lands and waters are under unprecedented attack, the outdoor community needs the knowledge and resources to protect the outdoor experience. Take our eLearning course *Protecting Public Lands 101* and start engaging in advocacy efforts today.

### **For Mountaineers Members**

If you're a Mountaineers member, visit the [course listing](#) to sign up. It's free, and at the end of the course you can earn your Outdoor Advocates Network – Public Lands 101 badge. [Click here](#) to get started!

### **For Our Greater Outdoor Community**

Friends and family who are not Mountaineers members can still take the course! Visit [www.outdooradvocates.net](http://www.outdooradvocates.net) to find the same great content. [Click here](#) for more information!

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### **Quick Hits**

- **Leadership Conference recap:** Review this year's [presentation materials](#) and watch video footage of your [favorite presentations](#).
- **Mountain-Queers:** Several members of The Mountaineers recently launched [Mountain-Queers](#), a new LGBTQIA+ affinity group to get folks outside. If you identify as LGBTQIA+ and are interested in participating in (or leading) Mountaineers trips and events with the Mountain-Queers, please fill out the interest survey [here](#)!



- **Instructors needed!** Want to help out with our courses this season? Find easy ways to introduce others to the outdoors through our ['instructor opportunities' listings](#). You can filter by activity, date, or branch, then quickly sign up online. Keep your skills current and stay connected with your Mountaineers community.
- **Let there be light!** Mountaineers volunteers receive 10% off of LuminAID's Solar Lanterns and 2-in-1 Phone Charger Lanterns! Use code MOUNTAINEER on [www.luminaid.com](http://www.luminaid.com) to receive 10% off your order. This code cannot be combined with other offers, and is valid for Mountaineers volunteers only.
- **When should I open my course registration?** Consider having course registration open on a weekday during business hours so that our [Member Services](#) team can support any technical issues with the website. This is especially applicable for large and very popular courses!
- **Looking for a new destination?** Learn about the Mount Tahoma Trail Association (MTTA) [hut-to-hut system](#), which keeps skiers and snowshoers warm after a day on the slopes.
- **Remembering Mountaineers.** It's been a tough year for The Mountaineers, as we've lost several beloved members and volunteers in non-Mountaineers related accidents. This month we said goodbye to volunteers [Steve Biem](#) and [Corey McCarty](#). We are deeply saddened by each loss, and want you to know that we have support available for those of you who have been impacted.
- **Journey to thru-hiker:** "For some people, thru-hikes over incredibly long distances become life-changing experiences, a kind of resetting and refreshing of goals, tendencies, and expectations of life and our place in it. [Will Robinson had that experience](#). He spent five years at war in Iraq as a member of the US Army and when he returned home he came back with knee injuries, a fused wrist, and a serious case of PTSD."
- **A word on connectivity:** "I expected the no-phones policy to be controversial, but [it didn't seem to be](#). In fact, most people seemed quite happy at the prospect of a (truly rare) break from connectivityland. To me, and I'm sure many others, it made enjoying the night seem so much simpler."
- **Aging in the outdoors:** "The problem is that I can't decide who I want to be. I want to be the bulletproof man I was, but I want to age with equanimity. I want to fight, but I want to appreciate the grace of all I still can do. Maybe this confusion explains why acceptance still feels too much like giving up." [Read more](#).

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

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

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[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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