



LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

In this edition of LeaderLines, we take a moment to celebrate this year's [volunteer award recipients](#). Every year, The Mountaineers recognizes a handful of volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. These are the individuals who have gone above and beyond to serve their Branch, as well as the entire Mountaineers community. Thank you for your dedication to The Mountaineers!

In addition, we highlight the impact of The Mountaineers' conservation and advocacy work, we share a new benefit for our Super Volunteers, and we give an update on some website improvements that you can expect to see next month.

Thank you, and we hope that you enjoy this month's LeaderLines!

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

Leader Spotlight: Tom Eckhout

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 Tom Eckhout, a volunteer leader with the Olympia Branch - and their 2017 Olympia Branch Service Award recipient! - who cherishes every moment he has in the mountains.

[Read More](#)



Low Impact Recreation Badge

The Mountaineers prides itself in creating a community of stewards, which means integrating mindful, low-impact recreation skills into the courses that we teach and the activities that we lead. Some of you may already be familiar with our Low Impact Recreation [video series](#), which shows how we as hikers, snowshoers, climbers, scramblers, skiers, and paddlers can lessen our impact in the outdoors while still enjoying our favorite activities. The video series is also connected to an [online quiz](#), and any member who takes the quiz and answers all of the questions correctly receives the [Low Impact Recreation badge](#) on their Mountaineers profile.

Earn Your Badge

2017 Conservation and Advocacy in Numbers:

- Our community took over 9,400 individual actions to protect our public lands in 2017.
- We were signatories on 40 public lands comment letters, 12 of which we penned and lead.
- Our members logged 7,486 volunteer stewardship hours on projects ranging from habitat restoration to USFS lookout tower work.
- Over 500 members took the online course on Low Impact Recreation, receiving the associated badge!



Lessons Learned: Rescue in the Mountains - What to Expect

Although this section usually focuses on lessons learned after an incident or near-miss has occurred, it's even better to learn lessons BEFORE an incident happens. Tony Tsuboi is not only a member of The Mountaineers Safety Committee, but he's also a proactive communicator and educator when it comes to safety. Read his article on mountain safety from our quarterly magazine.

[Read More](#)

Leader Logistics: Mountaineers Programs and Mountaineers Books Move Under The Same Online Roof

We're excited to announce that we will be launching an integrated Mountaineers Programs and Mountaineers Books website in February! This newest update is focused on bringing Mountaineers Books and Mountaineers Programs together under one roof. Like any home remodel - say adding a new wing to a house - we are keeping a lot the same while growing and expanding in other areas. Some "rooms" will be left untouched, others will get a fresh coat of paint, and a few spaces are going to be brand new. Since our original launch in May 2014 we have been [regularly making updates](#) based on feedback from members and

leaders. The focus of the last three years has been to improve our platform for our volunteer leaders, for whom 3.0 will be a minor change. We're giving you - our leaders - and early peek at the changes to come in mid-Feb. Learn more about the improved navigation and methodology, as well as some additional functionality, on the Tech 3.0 blog.

Read More

Quick Hits

- **Year in Review** - Volunteers are the lifeblood of The Mountaineers. Dive into the numbers and take a look at our collective impact in the [2017 recap blog](#).
- **Take our Member Survey!** Every two years we poll our community to find out what's working and where we can improve. Read this blog to find out how you can participate, and what we learned from past surveys. You should have gotten a custom link in your inbox, but in case you didn't, please [use this link](#) to take our survey.
- **Canmore and Beyond!** The Alpine Skills Development program is bringing climbers on an educational field trip. [Check out](#) who was selected and what we have coming up next as part of Progressive Climbing Education.
- **Coastal Kayak Instructor Manual** - Sean Morley, owner of [River and Ocean](#) Paddlesports Coaching Collective offers a [free PDF manual](#) on coastal kayaking instruction. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, or you're just wanting to be a better trip leader, this is a great resource!
- **Love for WA Pass** - We're working to restore, reconstruct, and reroute the trail to the Liberty Bell climbs in Washington Pass. These spires are home to some of the most amazing alpine climbing in the US, and we're stoked to team up with our partners on this project. [Learn more](#) and help us reach our fundraising goal.
- **The Milky Way and Beyond** - 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.
- **The more you know** - Here's what powers the [little miracles of chemistry](#) that keep your hands warm.
- **Just go for it** - Jen Gurecki had zero experience designing skis—until she decided to start her [own women's ski company](#).
- **ICYMI** - We put together a list of the top 10 most inspirational [Mountaineers of Instagram](#) to help you get through 2018. Check out our winners and be sure to use the

#OurPNW hashtag on Instagram to be featured in one of our daily posts.

- **New! Super Volunteer Benefits** - We are excited to offer exclusive benefits to our current Super Volunteers, which includes discounts from Rack N Road. If you received a 2017 Super Volunteer badge, login to [redeem your benefits!](#)
- **Skier LOLs** - The music video [everyone needed](#).

Stay Safe Out There!

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

Thank you for subscribing! Follow us online:



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.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Preferences](#)