



LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

Summer is in full swing here in Western Washington - and in case you haven't noticed - it's hot out there! I hope you've been able to get outside to enjoy the clear and sunny weather, and that you've been staying cool, hydrated, and appropriately lathered with sunscreen.

This month, I am excited to share that [Amanda Virbitsky](#) has joined the Education Department as our Volunteer Services Representative. In this new role, Amanda will provide streamlined administrative support for our volunteers, including the management of our recreational permitting processes. Amanda will also continue working collaboratively with our Member Services Team to support all of our members. The best way to ensure that your requests are met in a timely manner is to direct all inquiries to info@mountaineers.org, where they will then be redirected as needed. Please join me in welcoming Amanda into this important position!

In this edition of LeaderLines, we also invite you to apply to represent The Mountaineers at the annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference, we reiterate the importance of revisiting and refreshing your routines, and we overview an exciting new website feature. I hope that you enjoy all of this content sometime in between one of your many adventures!

Sara Ramsay,
Volunteer Development Manager

Leader Spotlight: Ted Miller

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Ted Miller. He is a 9-year member with the Bellingham Branch who became a leader to give back to his community.

[Read More](#)



Apply to attend WRMC on behalf of the Mountaineers!

The [Wilderness Risk Management Conference](#), or WRMC, is an annual gathering of outdoor professionals to create an unparalleled opportunity for experts from various facets of the risk management world – practitioners, administrators, insurance providers, wilderness medical professionals, equipment manufacturers, and attorneys – to convene in one place and share knowledge. If you are interested in learning more about how industry trends affect, shape, and impact our programs at The Mountaineers, this conference is a great opportunity for you to connect with other outdoor professionals and volunteers!

This year's conference is on October 3-5 in Portland, Oregon. The Mountaineers has reserved seven spots for our volunteers to attend, and we'd like to invite all volunteers to apply and attend on behalf of The Mountaineers! Applications are due by August 10.

[Read More & Apply](#)

Lessons Learned: Developing (and Maintaining) Routines

Our seasoned paddlers know that [routines](#) can be an integral aspect to ensuring safety on the water. But routines are important for more than just paddle sports. As we hit the midway point of the summer, it's important to revisit and review our systems. Taking just a few minutes to update our checklists, restock any necessary supplies, and make important gear repairs can be the difference between a great trip and an unexpected epic. Don't forget to check your [first aid kit](#)!

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Leader Logistics: Committee Aggregated Feedback

As a part of our [recent website update](#), Mountaineers committee admins are now able to see feedback about all of their committee's activities in one place. Those with "Admin" permissions on an activity committee roster can see feedback for all of the activities sponsored by their committee. Those with "Admin" permissions on a branch roster will be able to see feedback for any of the activity committees in their branch. If you're unsure whether or not someone has "Admin" permissions on your committee, look in the "Group" column of your committee roster.

To use this new feature, look for the blue "View Committee Feedback" button on the right-hand side of your committee homepage. You can filter feedback by primary leader, date range, and/or by course template. Click the blue "Back to Committee Page" button in the top right-hand corner to exit this page.

Questions? Please email info@mountaineers.org for additional support!

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Quick Hits

- **Save the Date!** This year's [Leadership Conference](#) is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Registration opens September 17!
- **Speak up for the Enchantments.** One of Washington State's most coveted wild places could be impacted by a wide-ranging water management proposal called the Icicle Creek Strategy. [The plan](#) calls for new, enlarged dams, which could flood nearby trails and campsites. It also raises concerns about appropriate actions in a protected wilderness area. We encourage you to learn more about the proposal and use the public comment period to make your voice heard [here](#).
- **Outdoor CEO Diversity Pledge.** When Teresa Baker, the founder of African American Nature and Parks Experience, asked The Mountaineers to sign on to her [Diversity Pledge](#), our CEO Tom Vogl jumped on board because "...everyone has the right to have amazing experiences in our wild places." In [this article](#) from SNEWS, Teresa Baker explains that diversity is also critical for conservation.
- **The importance of turnaround times.** On a recent climb of Mt. Rainier, volunteer climb leader Liana Robertshaw was faced with a tough decision: push on past the agreed upon turnaround time, or end the summit attempt for a team of climbers. [Read more](#).
- **Wildfire safety.** Wildfires are going to become bigger and more frequent in the future. If you find yourself caught in one, [this](#) is what you need to do.
- **Outdoor recreation study.** Have you ever made the trip to Bozeman, MT to climb ice in Hyalite Canyon? Our friends at the Outdoor Alliance are gathering information about the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the national forest around Bozeman. If you've climbed in Hyalite (or otherwise recreated on the Custer Gallatin), you can help. Take the [survey](#) today!
- **People of color in the outdoors.** "When I slip into my spot around the bonfire they are the people to my right and left. I trust them with my life. I enjoy their company. But there's this dividing line of things we don't talk about. After all, the social issues that weigh on me and affect my community are also the very things they come to the outdoors to ignore." [Read more](#).
- **Keep it clean.** Even if the soap bottle is labeled biodegradable, natural, or organic, [it's still bad](#).
- **Easy peasy transportation.** On weekends and designated holidays, [Trailhead Direct](#) takes riders to three hiking destinations: Mount Si, Issaquah Alps, and Mailbox Peak. All buses are run by King County and regular fares apply, just like in the city. By establishing this service, Trailhead Direct aims to increase accessibility

to local trails, limit vehicle congestion in trailhead parking lots, and reduce carbon emissions. If you have a group of more than 10 people - for example, for a Mountaineers activity - please fill out [this form](#) to reserve seating.

- **It's buggy out there.** What you need to know to [survive the battle of the bug](#), by Mountaineers board member Steve McClure.

~~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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