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LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

Spring is a time of change and transition. Longer days and warmer temperatures mean that the snow is finally melting, leading to [swollen rivers](#), washouts, and ever-changing conditions. Internally, our leaders are transitioning from courses to trips, helping thousands of our members get out to explore the mountains, forests, and waterways of our PNW playground.

This spring in particular, The Mountaineers community will experience another kind of transition as we bid [farewell to staff member Tess Wendel](#). Tess has left her fingerprints on nearly everything that we do at The Mountaineers, and if you've ever called the Program Center, sent an email to Member Services, or visited our website, you've likely benefited from her patience, kindness, and deep knowledge of our programs. She is a true champion of The Mountaineers spirit, and although we'll miss her dearly, we look forward to seeing Tess's continued impact as a volunteer. Thank you, Tess!

Throughout these changes, we look forward to adventuring alongside of you, and supporting each of you as a leader for The Mountaineers. We hope that you enjoy this edition of LeaderLines!

Sara Ramsay and Steve Smith,
Adult Education Managers

Leader Spotlight: Jacob Wolniewicz

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Jacob Wolniewicz. He is a Seattle-based volunteer who joined to gain technical skills, and stayed for the community!

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Wifi Access at the Seattle Program Center

For volunteers who spend a lot of time at the Seattle Program Center, we have created a password protected WiFi option to avoid repeatedly accepting our WiFi Terms & Conditions. Please login to our website to read more about accessing this network.

[Learn More](#)



Lessons Learned: Hazardous River Crossings

As winter snowpack gives way to spring snowmelt, rivers and creeks rise and can change rapidly from day to day - or even during the course of a single day. Here are some helpful reminders about managing the hazards of river crossings.

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Leader Logistics: Private vs "Public" Trips

We're heading into summer trip season, and at this time of year our Member Services team gets a number of questions about pre-filled trips. Please remember - all Mountaineers activities should be open to any guest or member who meets the stated prerequisites. If you wish to hand-select a group of friends, this is a private trip. Please do not list private trips on The Mountaineers website! It creates confusion and disappointment for our members who are looking to get outside with their Mountaineers community.

The most important piece of this process is transparency. If you'd like to give registration priority to a certain group of individuals - for example, students who are in a certain class - please note that on the trip listing, and also note when the trip will become open to all members. If you require [Leader's Permission](#), please clearly state what information you'd like to receive from each participant.

Quick Hits

- **Let's talk about affinity groups.** The Mountaineers is committed to creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community for our members. [Learn about](#) how you can support affinity groups as a member of our leadership!
- **Playing with fire.** Last summer, Washington saw a number of large and destructive wildfires. [Learn how](#) to travel safely in burn areas.
- **Barriers to outdoor rec.** [Steps to consider](#) on – and off – the “trail” to leverage our knowledge, resources and passion in implementing a robust approach to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- **How to make the perfect ... plate of pasta?** Writing curriculum can be challenging, but it's a crucial component to the success of our programs at The Mountaineers. [Learn how](#) to write a learning outcome for your course, and how that process will improve your success as instructor, as well as your students' experience with evaluations!
- **Fuel Canister Recycling.** We're excited to partner with MSR to recycle your [isopro-style fuel canisters](#) at our Seattle Program Center.
- **Mountains 101:** Enjoy this interesting (and free!) interdisciplinary [online course](#) about mountains.
- **Beekeeper.** "With the decline of the honeybee and colony collapse, I wanted to do my part to help the environment and food sources. [Here's what happened](#) when I put mason bees on my property." - Anita L. Elder, Mountaineers Photography Chair.
- **Love your body and take it outside.** "While you might say nature doesn't discriminate, people still do. The shame society puts on fat people affects us everywhere we go, [including on the trail](#)."
- **“Climbing is such an awesome metaphor for recovery.** We're climbing an insurmountable mountain of fear, insecurity, doubt, and pain (from the wreckage that we've caused), so as we're climbing mountains in our recovery we can also be climbing mountains in reality. Getting into [nature is so therapeutic](#) because it puts you in touch with the earth at a primeval level. It gets you out to breathe the fresh air and accomplish something you didn't think you could do. It goes a long way towards believing in yourself.” - Nik Jensen.
- **The Shower Rule:** "You left your wet, sweaty gear in a pile in the basement last night. In your rush to get out the door this morning you forgot to hang it up to dry, instead leaving it to fester in its own filth for another 12 hours. If there's one thing that will make a [bad smelling pile of gear](#) worse, it's time."

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.

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