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LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

With last week's [Thanksgiving](#) celebrations still fresh in our minds - and our bellies - we want to share thanks and extend our gratitude to you, our volunteer leaders. You are the heartbeat of this organization, and we couldn't provide the same high-quality, community-based programs and opportunities to our members without your generosity and leadership. Thank you for being a part of our volunteer family!

In appreciation of everything our volunteer leaders contribute to The Mountaineers programs, we are excited to celebrate your service at two upcoming events - the [Leadership Conference](#), on December 1, and the annual [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#), on January 26. We hope to see you at one (or both!) of these events, and we look forward to your participation.

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

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department

Leader Spotlight: Tab Wilkins

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Tab Wilkins. He is 15-year leader who has supported The Mountaineers both on the board and in the backcountry... and who met his wife through our community!

[Read More](#)



Wilderness Risk Management Conference - 2018 Recap!

The Wilderness Risk Management Conference, or WRMC, is an annual gathering of outdoor professionals that creates an unparalleled opportunity for experts throughout the industry to share knowledge and best practices. We were lucky that this year's conference was so close to home - just down the road in Portland, OR - which allowed us the opportunity to send a group of 14 staff and volunteers to learn and share on behalf of our organization.

As a part of this continued learning, we've compiled takeaways from a handful of the most impactful sessions that we attended. Read our recap blog for more information, and learn how to get involved in a future WRMC!

[Learn More](#)



Lessons Learned: Trail Conditions

The weather can always be finicky in our neck of the woods, and this time of year trail conditions change particularly quickly. Trail reports go out of date in a matter of days - if not hours - and as snow storms roll in, and you're never quite sure what to expect around the next bend. Selena Eon shares a cautionary tale about traveling through adverse conditions, and the resources her party used to make back-up plans A, B... and C!

[Read More](#)



Mentoring New Leaders

Mentoring and onboarding new leaders is a critical component of our program structure at The Mountaineers, and there are a few important features on our website to help our committee admins track and support new leaders. Learn more about these tools and how they will help you manage all of the moving pieces as our leaders go through the mentoring process!

[Learn More](#)

Quick Hits

- **Save the date!** The Mountaineers organization-wide [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#) is coming-up on Saturday, January 26. Registration opens on Monday, December 3. Dinner is complimentary and there is no cost to attend. This event is open to volunteers from all branches and their guests!
- **Logos for leaders:** Did you know we updated our logo in 2017? A small but distinctive evolution from our previous logo, we kept the iconic parts - the M, mountains, and water - but changed the shape slightly, reduced the amount of detail, and updated the colors. You can [access and download the logos](#) online, and we'd

appreciate it if you updated your course and graduation materials with our new look.

- **Introducing Mini-Mountaineers:** We've launched a new family program for kids aged 2-5 and a chaperone to get outside together. The Mountaineers hosts meet ups and [nature activities](#) with the goal of creating a community of families exploring together and inspiring a love for nature in the next generation. [Come play!](#)
- **Low-Trash Backpacking (and other outdoor pursuits):** On your trips you're careful to pack it out, you're cautious of delicate ecosystems, and you practice LNT principles. But what about all the plastic you throw out once you get home? Learn great ways to [decrease your trash production](#) while upgrading your on-trail eating.
- **Have you tried "earthing"?** As a society of people used to being comfortable, we're [losing our ancestral abilities](#) to tolerate extremes.
- **Are you writing trip reports? You should be!** "I promise this is not a contest, but if it were, Susan Shih would be crowned winner with three reports making this list from the five trips she led in October!" Check out our top [October trip reports](#).
- **In defense of mediocrity.** "When your identity is linked to your hobby — you're a yogi, a surfer, a rock climber — you'd better be good at it, or else who are you?" [Read more](#).
- **Finally! Maps for 'nerds'.** When will he [draw national parks](#) in the US?
- **Meet your Search and Rescuers:** "In Washington alone, search and rescue conducts more than 800 missions a year to help lost and injured outdoor enthusiasts. Yet despite the large number of hikers, climbers, skiers and bikers they help each year, most people know very little about the elite group behind the heroics." [Learn more](#).
- **Accessible Hiking:** Bob Coomber has not only pioneered wheelchair hiking techniques, he was the [first person](#) to summit White Mountain in a wheelchair - California's third-highest peak.

~~Stay Safe Out There!~~

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

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