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LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

How time flies! Can you believe that it's already the end of October? We sure can't, and this year's transition into fall has been a busy one. From preparing for the upcoming season of activity summits to finalizing the details for our fifth annual [Leadership Conference](#), we're excited to engage with each of you on a variety of activities and opportunities at The Mountaineers in the coming months.

If you haven't yet [registered](#) for the Leadership Conference, space is still available! We're excited to share this year's line-up of [presenters](#), and we hope that you're looking forward to a fun day of leadership development and community building. Please use the promo code LC18LEADER to register at the leader price of \$25!

Thanks for all that you do to enrich the quality of our programming at The Mountaineers, and we hope that you enjoy this month's edition of LeaderLines!

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department

Leader Spotlight: Rena Chinn

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Rena Chinn. She is 12-year member who believes that climbing can empower people to face challenges in all areas of their lives.

[Read More](#)



Building a Safe and Respectful Culture

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors approved three new policies - a [Member Code of Ethics](#), a [Prohibited Behavior Policy](#), and a [Prohibited Behavior Investigation Policy](#). The new policies are more clear and comprehensive so that all participants in Mountaineers activities understand behaviors that are acceptable, expectations for how we should treat one another, and how we handle complaints of inappropriate behavior.

How do these new policies affect our leaders? Our sincere hope is that the framework provided by these policies will reduce the likelihood inappropriate behavior will take place in Mountaineers activities - but also that, in the event of an incident, our leaders have the tools and process to handle complaints swiftly and objectively. This year we will be working on both a leader training module on these policies as well as member training to support the goal of physical and emotional safety in Mountaineers programs.

The Mountaineers also understands the need for a “lighter-weight” process and guidelines for more minor issues that can be resolved expediently within the committee and without staff involvement. So, what would be considered "minor" issue vs a behavior that should be handled within the more formal process? An example would include a one-time situation where the action or behavior was clearly not malicious and/or directed at an individual or a specific group of people. Another example would be an action or behavior that wouldn't be considered harassment or assault - allegations that are this serious will always be taken seriously and be investigated thoroughly and promptly.

A proposal for updating the policy with these guidelines will be discussed with the Board of Directors at its upcoming retreat on November 9-11. Shortly thereafter, we anticipate being able to share the updated policy as well as guidelines for how to handle minor issues without the need for the more formal investigation process.

[Learn More](#)



Lessons Learned: Hiking in the Dark

The days are getting shorter, and the sun is setting sooner. Did you remember to check that you've got a fresh set of batteries for your headlamp - and a spare set, too? Adam Greenbaum shares a humorous story of hiking into the dark and ending at a surprise destination.

[Read More](#)



Leader Logistics: Privacy and Permissions

Member Privacy

The Mountaineers has a [Privacy Policy](#) to protect the personal information we receive from members and guests. As a part of this policy, both members and guests have the ability to set their profile to *viewable* or *private*. Learn more about how to change these settings, and how these settings affect visibility and pre-trip communications on our recently updated [Our Privacy Policy Explained](#) page.

Sharing Course Materials

Did you know that every course template on our website has a “Course Materials” folder - and that course leaders have the option to restrict access to individuals who are associated with the course? Leave the folder “Public,” and the course materials are available to anyone who visits our website. Make the folder “Private” or “Shared With Committee,” and the course materials are only available to students and instructors who are registered (or who have been registered in prior years) for the course!

Pro Tip: “Shared With Committee” is the best of these options, because it provides access to other committees who might benefit from accessing your course materials. Read more about our [permissions settings](#) and [course materials](#) on our website!

Quick Hits

- **Some good news for permitting.** The Public Lands Recreational Opportunities Improvement Act has been introduced! This [new bill](#) will reduce bureaucratic barriers in outfitter-guide permitting on federal lands, helping more people get outside. Learn more about what that means, and why it's important.
- **Exploration at its finest:** A team of scientists recently climbed Mount Rainier, then descended into its caves from the summit to [explore the network of tunnels and chambers](#) that creep into the belly of the mountain.

- **Calling all families with young adventurers from 2-5 years old:** [Mini Mountaineers](#) events are just around the corner! Every month we'll host a meet-up at a Seattle park and a nature-based activity at the Seattle Program Center. Join us as we help our smallest Mounties learn and explore.
- **Get 'em while they're young.** Nicholas Kristof spent the last [6 summers hiking the PCT with his daughter](#), starting their first 200-mile backpacking trip when she was just 14 years old.
- **Snow season is rapidly approaching** - don't forget these [key safety tips](#).
- **Competition knows no age limit.** After reading that an 87 year old had climbed Devil's Tower, Bill Weber decided that [he probably could, too](#).
- **Your pre-packaged first aid kit is convenient** - but can it handle everything you do? Read this breakdown of how to [build your own customizable kit](#) for any adventure you undertake.
- **Find accessible trails.** Washington State Parks has unveiled a [new map for folks with disabilities](#) - the map includes more than 90 locations and features trails, campsites, restrooms, and more that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- **The Mountaineers Endorse I-1631:** Investing in a Healthy Outdoors and Clean Energy for Washington. [Learn more](#).
- **Gear buying for dummies.** Don't be [that customer](#).

~~Stay Safe Out There!~~

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

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