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# LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



**Welcome,**

Spring has arrived, and with it comes course season! Here at the Seattle Program Center, our building is buzzing with activity. It is exciting to see so many of our members and volunteers engaged with our educational programs on a daily basis, and we know that this is only a small slice of what's happening throughout the broader community!

In this edition of LeaderLines we offer some lessons learned about spring snow travel, seek your input on a few proposed updates to our feedback forms, and highlight the last handful of [Leadership Development Series](#) seminars that we'll offer this spring.

Happy Trails,

**Sara Ramsay & Nick Block**  
**Education Department**

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## Leader Spotlight: Krissy Fagan

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Krissy Fagan. She is a climb leader with the Bellingham Branch who is learning to appreciate the many different speeds of mountaineering... but still prefers a good sufferfest!

[Read More](#)



## Leadership Development Series: Last call for spring seminars!

Throughout the spring, The Mountaineers is offering a [Leadership Development Series](#) to provide additional high-quality, continuing education opportunities for our volunteer leaders. Keep an eye on our [calendar of events](#) to know what's coming up in your local community! Sign up to join us today.

- [Challenging the 'Single Story' of the Outdoors](#) | May 9 in Seattle
- [Communicate What's Important](#) | May 14 in Tacoma - **Live stream option available!**
- [Group Decision Making](#) | May 16 in Bellevue
- [Deepening Our Understanding and Application of DE&I](#) | June 6 in Tacoma
- [Lessons Learned from the Front Lines](#) | June 11 in Seattle

Be sure to check out our new [Resource Center](#) for past presentation materials, recordings, and additional information and ideas!



### Lessons Learned: Spring Snow Travel

“Well-prepared winter enthusiasts understand the potential risks of travel in avalanche terrain and will have undertaken some formal training. However, there is a paradox - several studies have shown that merely taking the courses really doesn’t alter the odds of being an avalanche casualty - in fact, around half the victims have had such training.” Peter Clitherow, a longtime Mountaineers climb, snowshoe, and scramble leader, discusses the different factors that can increase our risk levels in the outdoors, and what steps we can take to mitigate them.

[Learn More](#)

Spring weather conditions also mean the return of the wet avalanche cycle in the Cascades. Read about one party’s close call last spring, and learn from their experience.

[Read More](#)



## Access and Permits

For Mountaineers trips, courses, and clinics, permitting needs vary by land manager. As a Mountaineers leader, learn about your role in making sure we're in compliance with each land manager's rules and regulations.

[Learn More](#)



## Leader Logistics: We Need Your Input!

The Mountaineers is considering several improvements to the way we currently compile and review our course, activity, and event feedback... and we need your input! Please take a minute to review the various ideas and suggestions, then log in to vote or comment.

[Give Feedback](#)

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## Quick Hits

- **The Mountaineers is committed to building and maintaining a culture where everyone feels safe and respected**, and each of us plays an important role in making this goal a reality. To support this goal we have established specific expectations and a process for what to do in the event of a behavior complaint. Read more about our efforts in [building a safe and respectful culture](#). For more info about our broader policies, please see our [Board Policies](#).
- **Action Alert! The Washington State Budget is nearing approval and the current proposal leaves state lands underfunded.** This proposed budget will take \$1 million from DNR's Discover

Pass revenues and redirect them to the state's general fund, further shrinking DNR's budget and leaving Washington State Parks \$5 million short. [Learn more and take action.](#)

- **Plus size climbing harnesses** - climbing is very intimidating, and even more so for plus size people. Check out [these wonderful tips](#) from plus size climber Sam Ortiz and say goodbye to worrying about whether or not a harness will fit your body - and hello to taking on new challenges and reaching new heights!
- **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.
- **This summer, help us collect watermelon snow samples for science!** Western Washington University's Dr. Robin Kodner is leading a citizen-science effort to better understand and document climate change through studying watermelon snow. [Find out how to get involved.](#)
- **Toilets in Leavenworth:** Our friends at the Leavenworth Mountain Association have received grant funding for 5 toilets in the Icicle Creek Watershed this climbing season, from now until August 31, 2019. The port-a-potties will be placed at Mad Meadows, Forestlands, the Sword Boulders, and the Mountaineer Creek Bivy Area. Leavenworth Mountain Association is also fundraising to cover the upkeep of these port-a-potties - [check them out](#) to contribute!
- **Safety first.** As the use of our North Plaza friction slabs increases, please be [proactive about car traffic](#) in the surrounding areas.
- **Try taking up scrambling when you're 60!** In [this piece](#) from Mountaineer magazine, scrambling student Nick Reynolds discusses the joys - and surprises - he found in taking our compressed scrambling course in his mid-60's.
- **And for a little throwback,** "Who needs specialist climbing gear [when you've got formal frocks and heels?](#)"
- **"So why all the hate for rollerblading?** I have an answer many of you won't like. Could it be that it's [more radical than your sport?](#)"

### **Stay Safe Out There!**

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

Thank you for subscribing! Follow us online:



[www.mountaineers.org](http://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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