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# LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



## Welcome,

After a warm and sunny spring, summer has officially arrived - and with it, a late round of [January](#)! We're personally thankful for a few days of light rain and cloud cover, both of which feel like a welcome reprieve after several weeks of unseasonably hot temperatures. We hope that you've been enjoying the same!

In this edition of LeaderLines, we share exciting website updates that improve course management, a new website notification system for members to be notified about upcoming trips, and a reminder about our nominal effects letter with the Snoqualmie Ranger District.

We hope that you're able to get out to enjoy some of the longest days of the year, be it on the trail, on the water, or way up high in our lingering PNW snowpack. Cheers to a summer full of adventure!

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

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## Leader Spotlight: Karen Wallace

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Karen Wallace. She is a 3-year member with an adventurous spirit, a keen attention to detail, and a passion for sharing her love of the outdoors with others.

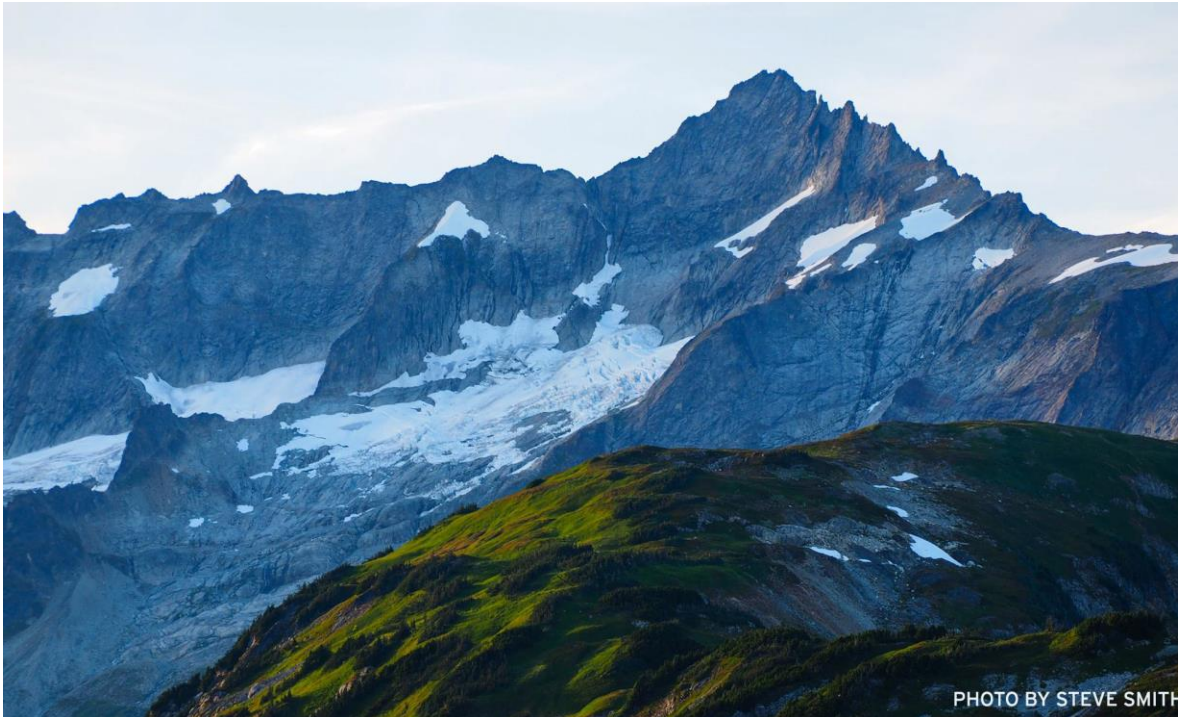
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## Access & Permits: Snoqualmie Ranger District

This month, we want to remind leaders that The Mountaineers holds a [nominal effects letter](#) with the [Snoqualmie Ranger District](#) of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. What does this mean? The U.S. Forest Service allows District Rangers to review proposed use to determine whether a special use permit (such as a Priority Use Permit) is required. In our case, the Snoqualmie District Ranger has evaluated The Mountaineers use and determined that it “will have nominal effects on the lands, resources, and programs of the National Forest, therefore a special use permit is not required.” The current nominal effects letter is linked on each route/place located within the Snoqualmie Ranger District (ex: [Granite Mountain](#)), and **we ask that leaders who are running any trips in this area be sure to bring a copy of the letter along with them** (in either print or electronic format). Mountaineers staff report our usage annually to the Snoqualmie Ranger District, and the rangers determine whether our use continues to qualify as nominal effects.





### **Lessons Learned: A Cautionary Tale**

“Connie Lightner, mother of teenage climbing phenom Kai Lightner, is fond of saying, ‘Sometimes you win, and sometimes you learn.’ This Forbidden trip allowed us to win, and even more so, to learn.” Steve Smith, former Mountaineers staff member and current risk management consultant, shares a humorous but cautionary tale full of lessons from an epic 1996 ascent of Forbidden Peak.

[Read More](#)



## Leader Logistics: Website Updates

It's been almost a year since our last technology update, but we've been busy adding new features and improvements.

- We added an **Alerts & Notifications** section to the [My Profile](#) page where members and guests can choose to receive an email as new content is added to our website. This system is set-up to alert members and guests to new trips immediately, in a daily digest, or in a weekly digest. To sign up, use the checkmarks available in the “Alerts & Notifications” section when you edit your profile.
- We changed the **branch email newsletter** opt in so that members can opt to receive any branch's email newsletter. This is great for those who live between branches or just want to be more informed.
- We added a **course activities download** to course rosters that not only shows whether participants are signed up for the required field trips, but also includes all of the additional activities they are registered for. This will help course chairs ensure that students are getting out on their experience trips!

Read more about these updates, and many more, on our latest technology blog.

[Learn More](#)

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## Quick Hits

- **Cross promote other committees as a trip leader.** Anita Elder, the chair of the Seattle Photography Committee, [shares tips](#) on what it means to her to be a trip leader with us, and how she gears her trips toward highlighting all of our great activities.
- **Equity & Inclusion Committee update.** Learn about the efforts to help The Mountaineers become a more equitable and inclusive organization, and [sign up for a July listening session](#).
- **The Index Toilet has been installed!** The Washington Climbers Coalition has been working hard to install a toilet at the Lower Town Walls in Index. After many hours of labor, the toilet was opened on May 31! It's all part of the WCC's [Long Range Index plan](#) involving toilets, parking, and trail work.
- **Remote hikes take more prep.** [Learn how to manage risk](#) as you transition into regions with fewer folks on the trail and no cell service. (Bonus: You can share these tips with your participants before longer hikes!)
- **You really can slip on a banana slug.** “It didn't take long to realize I could not put any weight on my right leg: the last five miles to the car now looked less possible. There was no cell service and I was stuck, [unable to even crawl](#)! Laurie took off

down the trail to reach her car and drive the six miles to the nearest ranger station... Meanwhile, Nanci and I knew we had a long wait ahead of us.”

- **Email Tip:** Do you ever have trouble copying and pasting a list of email addresses from The Mountaineers website to use in your own email server? That’s because some servers recognize only semicolons to separate email addresses. Make sure your email account is set-up to recognize commas in your [email’s message settings](#).
- **Adventure hacks for the overstoked and underprepared.** Want to learn how to make a day pack out of a pair of pants? Or use your snack as fire starter? Flip through [these adventure hacks](#) to whip out the next time you find yourself suffering from a packing oversight.
- **On being an outdoorsy introvert:** “When I am pushed, the words disappear. My head becomes a blank piece of paper. Not even the mountains can change that. When I am told to, ‘speak up,’ I shut down. I wear my introversion [like a shield](#).”
- **What type of bailer are you?** "The truth about bailing is that we’re all guilty of it. You are a bailer. I am a bailer. We bail. It’s not a matter of when you will bail, [but how](#)."
- **Nothing to see here.** Just a [wolverine carrying around a goat head](#).

### **~~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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