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Welcome,

It is with incredible sadness that we begin this edition of LeaderLines by reflecting on the [passing of Tab Wilkins](#). Tab was a former Board President, and during his 19 years with The Mountaineers he made immeasurable contributions to all levels of the organization. Endlessly patient and always leading with a compassionate smile, Tab was well-loved by our community. He was a close friend and colleague to many of us, and we will be offering support to those impacted as our community processes the sudden loss of a beloved Mountaineer. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you need anything.

In this edition of LeaderLines, we also introduce a new monthly segment to help our leaders keep track of the many complex components of land manager permitting, and we share the details for several additional [Leadership Development Series](#) seminars. It has been great to see so many of you out at these events, and we're looking forward to a full spring of shared learning.

Take care,

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department



Leader Spotlight: Gordie Swartzman

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Gordie Swartzman. He is a 37-year

member who is addicted to bird and plant identification... as well as the feeling of sharing the places he loves with others!

[Read More](#)



[Access & Permits: Facilitated Access Permitting](#)

Permitting is an increasingly complex topic of conversation for our leaders at The Mountaineers. In an effort to provide more information about this important facet of our programming, we're introducing a new segment in LeaderLines called Access & Permits. Stay tuned here for updates about new permit guidelines, reminders about permit deadlines, and answers to common questions.

To get started, check-out the new [Land Manager Resources](#) section of our website. Of particular note, you'll also find our [Facilitated Access Permitting](#) page, which provides a wealth of knowledge about permit requirements for our Mountaineers courses and activities. Please let us know what you think, and share your questions so we can answer them here for everyone!



Lessons Learned: Focus On Near Misses

“Outdoor education programs, by their inherent nature, experience many near misses - more than may be quantifiable - but what do we do with the near misses we encounter, and how do we convert those near misses into useful lessons?” Steve Smith, risk management consultant and former Mountaineers staff member, discusses the importance of [identifying and studying near misses](#) to prevent actual incidents. Interested to dive deeper and learn more? Consider attending Steve’s presentation [Near-Misses Are Telling You Something - Are You Listening?](#) at the Mercer Island Library on April 9.



Leader Logistics: Leadership Development Series

Throughout the spring, The Mountaineers will be 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.

- [Near Misses Are Telling You Something](#) | April 9 on Mercer Island
- [Working With Adult Learners](#) | April 15 in Olympia
- [Assessment and Partnership](#) | April 23 in Seattle - *Live streaming available!*
- [Outdoor Instructor Development Workshop](#) | April 25 in Bremerton
- [Challenging the 'Single Story' of the Outdoors, Conservation, and Recreation](#) | May 9 in Seattle
- [Communicate What's Important](#) | May 14 in Tacoma - *Live streaming available!*
- [Group Decision Making](#) | May 16 in Bellevue
- [Deepening Our Understanding and Application of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) | June 6 in Tacoma

Quick Hits

- **New Waterfall Canyoning Course.** Earlier this year, The Mountaineers launched a new Canyoning Committee, dedicated to helping people explore the canyons of the Pacific Northwest. We're hosting an [intensive canyoning course](#) for 8 days in July to get you the skills you need to discover the world class canyons of the PNW - one of our best kept secrets!
- **Join the Rebolt!:** Thanks to the support of "Join the Rebolt!" in 2018, Washington Anchor Replacement Project (WARP) was able to raise over \$6,000 through the community, businesses, and organizations. Show your [support for replacement work in 2019](#) and consider attending a [rebolting workshop on May 11](#) at The Mountaineers.
- **Language matters.** Did you know that our casual use of the abbreviation for carabiner ('biner) may be offensive to Latino students, as it resembles an extremely pejorative term? While the climbing slang term and racial slur are spelled differently, they are audibly identical. Check out our blog on why this term [should be cut from your climbing lexicon](#).
- **Developing leaders is a focus in mountain clubs across the world.** [Here's a look](#) out how our peers in New Zealand are thinking about leadership development.
- **Party at Vantage!** Join the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) to celebrate the installation of the new toilet (to join Toilets #1 and #2). Raffles, vendors, climbing clinics, and a barbeque are part of the celebration! The event happens April 27 from 9-6pm at the Feathers parking area.
- **Did you know?** The fascinating history behind our Seattle Program Center's [Basalt Columns](#).
- **The easiest LNT argument you can make.** "The next time you witness such casual tossage, ask the perpetrator: Would you be cool with a stranger flinging a 'natural' banana peel into your front yard? No? Why, then, do you think it's acceptable to [chuck one in the woods](#)?"
- **Put on your celebration attire.** Check out [these incredible Bolivian women](#) who, after working as cooks and porters for others in mountain camps, summited the 22,841-ft Aconcagua (in traditional dress to boot).
- **The latest from our Gear Library.** [Learn how](#) you can get involved, and join us for our next training on April 8!
- **A little laugh from The Onion.** "Jillian is really just using her vacation time to be [out in nature](#), just walking for the sake of walking, I guess?"

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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