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Welcome,

With summer just around the corner, and sunshine starting to chase away the grays of winter, it is high time that we celebrate the newest feature of our Seattle Program Center. Solar panels! Last week, we hosted an [Electric Celebration](#) to commemorate the official launch of our roof-top solar power and to say thank you to all of the donors, Super Volunteers, and Key Leaders in our community. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

In this edition of LeaderLines, we're also excited to share our new [Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\) and Service Animal Policy](#). We invite you to learn about both documents, and how they are designed to support our programs, leaders, and participants.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our programs!

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department



Leader Spotlight: Lisa Hayek

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Lisa Hayek. She is a 3-year member who hikes almost daily with her baby daughter. They hope to see you out on the trail!

[Read More](#)



Access & Permits: State Parks

This month, we're highlighting the permit process with Washington State Parks. The Mountaineers holds a Commercial Use Permit with Washington State Parks, and the [permit document](#) is available on every State Parks route/place in our database for leaders to download and bring on their trips (in print or electronic format). This particular permit is somewhat unique in that all of our organization's use, whether it is course-related or stand-alone, is treated identically by the land manager. Staff reports on our actual usage to State Parks at the end of the calendar year, and we are charged a flat fee per individual, per use day, for all Mountaineers activities that take place on State Park land.

Additionally, we're thrilled to share that the [Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation \(SOAR\) Act](#), a bipartisan piece of legislation we've worked on for nearly six years, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. When passed, it will be easier for more people to experience public lands through outdoor programs by improving recreational permitting systems on federal lands.



Lessons Learned: Bear Awareness

Washington is bear country, and as we transition to longer summer days - and overnights - in the backcountry, it's essential to refresh our bear awareness skills. Our friends at Defenders of Wildlife offer a [great presentation](#) about bear biology, how to differentiate between black bears and grizzlies (they do exist in Washington!), and important bear awareness tips.

Want to learn more?

- Watch this quick [bear spray training](#).
- Learn what to do if you're [sprayed with bear spray](#).
- Read about [food storage](#) in bear country.



Leader Logistics: Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) & Service Animal Policy

The Mountaineers values diversity – including persons with diverse abilities – in our programs. While we do not specialize in integrating persons with disabilities into our programs, we encourage people of all abilities to consider participating in Mountaineers programming.

Earlier this month, The Mountaineers Board of Directors approved our new [Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\)](#) and a [Service Animal Policy](#). These documents are designed to help prospective participants navigate their ability to participate in our programs, and to provide a framework for leaders to assess requests for accommodation.

We encourage all leaders to view this [9-minute narrated presentation](#) for a more in-depth overview of how both our Essential Eligibility Criteria and Service Animal Policy are designed to support our programs, leaders, and participants.

[Learn More](#)

Quick Hits

- **Leadership Development Series:** Join us for one of our final seminars this spring! Spots are still available for [Deepening Our Understanding and Application of DE&I](#) on June 6 in Tacoma and [Lessons Learned from the Front Lines](#) on June 11 in Seattle.
- **National Trails Day - June 1:** The first Saturday of June is National Trails Day, and all over the country outdoor enthusiasts will meet with others who are passionate about trails. We want to take this day to [recognize the incredible work](#) of our Olympia Conservation & Stewardship committee, and invite you to [sign up for one of four work parties](#) on June 1 or for a day of stewardship on the [trail to 3 O’Clock Rock](#) outside of Darrington.
- **Group Decision Making:** Tom Unger has been using the same process to guide group decisions for the last 20 years. Learn how [he approaches group decision making](#) to accommodate trip members without devolving into unending discussion.
- **We publish some [pretty incredible books!](#)** "Last year, at age 66, Wolownick became the oldest woman to ascend Yosemite’s iconic El Capitan. She has also emerged as a survivor who overcame the emotional damage of a dysfunctional marriage, a dedicated mother who raised two kids with extraordinary athletic skill sets."
- **Climbed with The Mountaineers? We need your feedback.** The Progressive Climbing Education (PCE) Leadership Development Committee is working hard to build a new climbing leadership structure to make it easier to become a leader. [Help us](#) create the right approach to new leadership paths through a quick read and survey.
- **Share your trip reports.** Did you know we put together a Top 10 list of our favorite trip reports each month? Check out our [faves from April](#), and don’t forget to log yours now to capture experiences and help others plan ahead! Need inspiration? Check out this incredibly [detailed and riveting trip report](#) from one of our students.
- **Summer stewardship in Leavenworth:** Our friends at the Leavenworth Mountain Association have organized a number of [stewardship events](#) during the summer climbing season. Consider joining for a day of trail work, and even some camping! The [Icicle Canyon Cleanup](#) on October 5 is now held at the Eightmile Campground Group Site, and free camping is available.
- **“If we only go out when the weather is 'good', we’re missing out on deep human experiences that can help [put our lives in context](#).”**

- **Parties for Mountaineers!** Volunteers and members enjoy [great benefits](#) all year round, and every now and then we partner with local companies as another way to say thanks. Join us May 31 for a [Helly Hansen Appreciation Sale](#) and RSVP to the just announced [Mountaineering Club Summer Kickoff Party](#).
- **39-years ago this month Mount St. Helens erupted.** Check out [this photo](#) of the eruption captured from the summit of Mt. Adams.

~~Stay Safe Out There!~~

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!

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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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