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LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month? Though we continue to face unprecedented challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, one thing hasn't changed: the unwavering support of our volunteer community. This month we raise a toast to you, our volunteers! Thank you for sticking with us as we navigate these uncharted waters.

As we hear new guidance from government and public health officials, including Monday's announcement from Governor Inslee about the reopening of state lands to recreation, we continue to post the most up-to-date information about the status of our programs on the COVID [blog](#) and [response page](#). Last Friday, Tom Vogl also shared a detailed update about our [baseline assumptions and continued actions](#) as we plan for the gradual reopening of our programs. Staff and volunteer leadership are working hard to provide thoughtful and comprehensive guidelines, which we will release as we know more from government and public health officials, as well as our partners in the outdoor recreation community.

This month, we're also excited to share our new [Virtual Education Center](#) and [Virtual Events & Activities Calendar](#), full of ways for you to stay (virtually) connected to your community, grow your skills, and access resources to create your own online content.

Sincerely,

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department

Leader Spotlight: Becky Jacobsen

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Becky Jacobsen. She is a newer hike leader and active volunteer with the Tacoma Hiking & Backpacking Committee who loves post-hike treats. Milkshakes in the winter, why not? Becky is also one of our many volunteers who has pivoted their programs to continue connecting with The Mountaineers community during this spring's Stay Home order. Thank you to Becky for all you do!

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Introducing the Virtual Education Center

We're excited to invite you to check out our new [Virtual Education Center](#), your home base for accessing all of our great virtual learning tools! Find activities, events, and classes held online and browse our educational resources for skills and more.

For our volunteers, we've also created a robust set of [Content Creation Tools](#). Learn about using [Google Classrooms](#) to manage your curriculum; find tutorials for making your own recorded presentation or video; get inspiration from our many [Volunteer Success Stories](#); read tips and tricks for [streamlining your next virtual event](#); or pull a blurb from our [Sample Language & Templates](#). These tools exist for you and we hope you find them valuable.

Have an idea of something else we can include? Let us know! Our goal is to continue developing this content to meet the changing needs of our volunteers and community. Please email [Sara Ramsay](#) with ideas or suggestions.



Lessons Learned: What Happens When You Need a Rescue During a Pandemic

“Only after they depart does the potential cost of their actions sink in. More than 50 people were involved with the rescue, from civilian first responders to professional air-medical crews, and many on scene worked close enough to breathe on each other.” This story of a major accident in the Colorado backcountry in late March details the cascade of choices and potential outcomes from a single incident. The takeaway? Our individual choices matter, and the gravity of a single accident is exponentially amplified during a global crisis.

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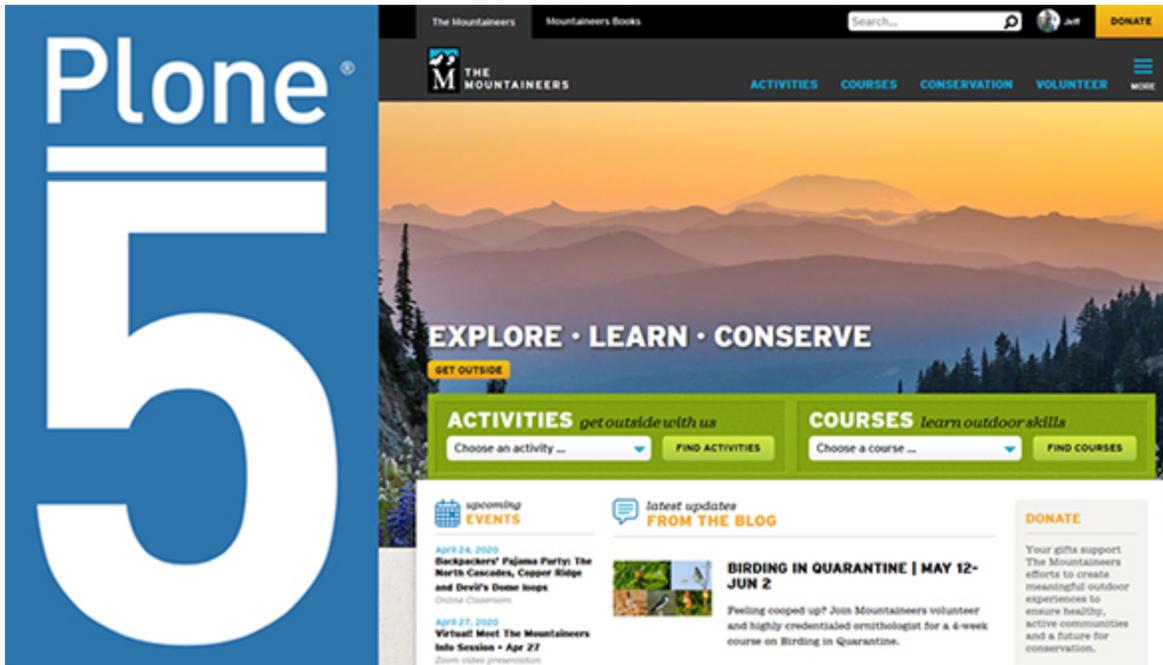


Access & Permits: Public Land Closures

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our state and federal public lands are closed. The resources of our public land managers and first responders are stretched incredibly thin due to this crisis, and in partnership with our land managers, we urge our community to be patient, stay home, and stay healthy. The best thing we can all do is hunker down while this storm passes.

As restrictions change in the coming weeks and months, please don't hesitate to be in touch with staff if you have questions about permits or group access. We are working closely with land managers to assess the impact of our programs and we're here to answer your questions and support however we can.

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Leader Logistics: Plone 5 Updates

While the majority of our programming is on pause, we've still been hard at work finalizing a big round of updates to our website. We're updating our website platform from Plone 4 to Plone 5 as support for elements of Plone 4 are ending this year. This is a very big update to the backend of our website, and our staff and volunteers have done extensive testing to be sure it all works. The average user won't see any major differences, but the upgrade includes improvements for our volunteers.

[Learn More](#)

Quick Hits

- **Feeling cooped up?** Learn to [bird in quarantine](#) with Tom Bancroft, a Mountaineers volunteer and highly-credentialed ornithologist.
- **Show us your house pants!** We know you're wearing some right now. And they can come in handy for our new (and very popular) [Backpacker's Pajama Party](#). They're hosted every Friday by the Foothills Branch.
- **Miss your Mountaineers activities?** Explore the outdoors from the comfort of your couch (in your house pants!) with the new Tacoma Photography Committee 2020 [\(virtual\) gallery show](#).
- **"I watched in fascinated disgust** as dozens of insects squirmed and wriggled towards the edges of the bark where it met the soft damp core, searching for [darkness and safety](#)."
- **It's electrifying.** If you've been thinking about going electric (vehicle, that is), the Carbon Footprint Reduction Committee has a [seminar for you](#).

- **Apply now!** Our Alpine Ambassadors Rock Getaway trip in Squamish typically happens in July, providing participants the opportunity to connect with a community of fellow climbers looking to push their grades. While we recognize this trip may not happen and we're working on flexible plans, we invite you to [apply](#).
- **Youth at home?** Be sure to check out our new weekly blog series [Stuck Inside](#), created by the youth team with specific ideas for ways to keep your kids engaged with the outdoors.
- **A squabble over climbing styles nearly tore The Mountaineers apart.** Choosing instead to put differences aside, that turmoil spawned a text so seminal that it is now read religiously by aspiring climbers around the world. [Take a walk down memory lane](#) with us in celebration of 60 years of Mountaineers Books!
- **Two words: dog balloons.** Seriously, [you're welcome](#).
- **It's a match.** Many organizations offer workplace giving programs to support their employees' [charitable donations and volunteer commitments](#). As we shift our programs online, don't forget that virtual committee meetings, preparing online curriculum, and hosting virtual events can be [tracked as volunteer hours](#) and submitted for matching hours with your employer. You've already donated the time and these programs offer an easy way to extend your impact as a Mountaineers volunteer.

Stay Safe Out There!

Assess and manage the risks of your adventure!
(And remember to wash those hands.)

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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