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# LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



## Welcome,

As we've said elsewhere, what a year this month has been. In the short span of several weeks, the coronavirus outbreak has gone from a small blip on our radar to something that, at times, feels all-consuming. Nearly every person, company, and organization on the planet is impacted by this crisis - and The Mountaineers is no exception.

Will The Mountaineers make it through this? Heck, yes! We are first and foremost a community of volunteers, connected by a love of the outdoors. When this crisis is over, our mountains will still be here and so will our community. Winston Churchill is credited with saying "Never waste a good crisis." We don't know how things will be different when this is over, and we are working hard to maintain the things that are most important to us (keep reading for how you can help!). And, we're getting creative to embrace the ways this presents an opportunity for us to learn new ways of doing things. We hope you'll be a part of this Mountaineers-in-quarantine experiment along with us.

Guidance from our local and federal governments is changing by the day, if not the hour, and you can continue to find the most up-to-date information about any impacts to our programs on the COVID [blog](#) or [response page](#). In addition to several of our standard features, we'll also use this special edition of LeaderLines to highlight several ways for you to stay connected with our Mountaineers community.

On behalf of all of our staff at The Mountaineers, we hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for your continued support of our programs and all that you do to enrich our community.

Sincerely,

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

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### **Leader Spotlight: Peter Hendrickson**

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Over the past few weeks of the growing COVID crisis, we've been blown away by the care, compassion, and creativity our leaders have shown in the face of adversity. Volunteers at all levels of the organization have stepped up to adapt to an ever-changing landscape, and this month, we're excited to highlight one such volunteer who is at the front lines of these changes. Meet this month's featured leader: Peter Hendrickson. He is a 15-year member who serves both as our VP of Branches and a leader for our robust Wilderness Navigation programs, among his many other contributions!

[Read More](#)

### **Time on Your Hands? Help Keep Our Community Connected!**

We're entering uncharted territory. Mountaineers in-person programming is suspended until at least April 24 and a two-week minimum [Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#) order limits non-essential businesses and access to many of our favorite places.

If you are looking for meaningful ways to contribute to The Mountaineers community during these unprecedented times, we're brainstorming fun and creative opportunities to help keep

our community connected. From supporting our senior members to creating online curriculum, we hope there is something for everyone!

[Learn More](#)



### **We're Feeling the Pinch, Here's How You Can Help**

“As a course leader, I deeply empathize with any volunteer who’s had to make the extremely difficult decision to cancel or alter a course that you spent months planning. I also empathize with the hundreds of volunteers who were looking forward to supporting these courses or continuing the operations of our lodges this spring. With at least 30 courses, all of our lodges, and nearly 1,000 volunteers and students affected by these changes, it’s clear that we are entering truly unprecedented times.” Gabe Aeschliman, course leader, Super Volunteer, and Board Vice President gives an update on our program financials and invites volunteers to support our upcoming virtual gala experience.

[Read More](#)

### **Lessons Learned: Stay Home**

“It’s important to note that we are no longer being told to continue with life as usual while practicing social distancing. We are in the midst of a pandemic, and our response needs to reflect the gravity of this situation. The best case scenario from all of this is that we all look back and feel as though we overreacted.” On the heels of the Governor’s orders to stay home and stay healthy, The Mountaineers offers a few ideas for how to spend your time while keeping things hyperlocal.

[Read More](#)



### **Take Your Learning Online: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

There's no time like the present, and for many of us, the present is full of nothing but time! As you settle into a new routine, we encourage you to take this opportunity to catch-up on some awesome online learning opportunities. Consider this two-part webinar series on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) from [American Trails](#), in partnership with the Avarna Group.

- [Part 1: The What and Why of JEDI](#). Learn definitions, articulate what you mean when you are talking about JEDI, and learn the importance of JEDI to outdoor organizations.
- [Part 2: JEDI Strategies for Your Organization](#). Provide resources to take action, learn four quadrants of JEDI work, and offer takeaways for both individuals and organizations.

In addition to recordings and transcripts of these webinar presentations, the Avarna Group provides answers to questions they weren't able to answer during the presentation, as well as links to additional resources and learning.

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### **SPECIAL Quick Hits (a little levity to give you a much-needed break from the news)**

- **Set any first ascents in your own home recently?** [Share the beta](#).
- **Think you got strong abs?** We hate to break it to you. [You don't](#).
- **Are you interesting? Prove it.** In December we launched several [new features](#) as part of the member profile. If you haven't yet, go ahead and update your profile (and encourage others to do it too!) with that new info and upload a fun, goofy photo!
- **Bored? Embrace your inner couch potato** and enjoy the [2020 Couch Tour](#) from Banff Mountain Film Festival.
- **Double Down!** If you have two screens, you might as well dedicate one to watching [animal cams](#) or keeping tabs on the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#). We recommend going for a waddle with [the penguins](#).
- **If it's not online, it didn't happen.** With the extra time on your hands, now is a great time to [track your volunteer hours](#).

- **Still skiing at the age of 101?!?** George Jedenoff is here to [show you how it's done](#).
- **Do you like maps?** Creativity comes in all forms, and we love these [maps by Shuraih Latifi](#).
- **Yeah... you probably aren't wearing pants right now**, but hear us out about jeans! A [quick guide](#) to the implications of doing different sports in jeans, and a new record set for the number of people to [ski in jeans](#).
- **“Remember, your fingers are like pigeons.** They are dirty, mindless creatures, and unless properly trained, [they will wander](#).”

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

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

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[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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