

Seattle Climbing Committee Chair

**Goal of Position**

In concert with both their branch and The Mountaineers at large, the climbing committee chair coordinates and leads their committee’s efforts in serving our membership. This is accomplished when the climbing committee provides safe and high-quality activities, courses, and volunteer experiences that allow all members to share a passion for the outdoors by exploring, conserving, learning about, and enjoying the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

The climbing committee chair’s primary responsibility is to support the success of their leaders and course chairs by providing mentorship and oversight.

**Activities and Responsibilities**

* Ensures the committee charter is current and adhered to by all members.
* Ensures that all relevant Mountaineers policies and clubwide activity standards are upheld by the committee’s leaders.
* Facilitates committee meetings.
* Supports a committee structure, including officers and sub-committee chairs as needed, to achieve the goals of the committee
* Provides regular feedback and mentorship to the committee’s leaders and course chairs.
* Ensures that the committee has processes in place to recruit and retain volunteers.
* Ensures that key committee roles attend annual activity summits and bring decisions and initiatives back to the branch.
* Represents the committee by attending Branch Council meetings.
* Ensures that club-level processes are followed to resolve member-volunteer issues promptly and effectively, and at the appropriate level.
* Encourages and oversees consistent and meaningful volunteer recognition for their committee.
* Ensures ongoing succession planning for key committee roles, such as sub-committee chairs, treasurer, secretary, leadership chair, and chair-elect or vice chair.
* Works alongside the committee treasurer to ensure that branch funds are managed responsibly and that financial reporting to branch treasurer happens according to the branch’s expectations.
* Works with the committee treasurer to ensure that the committee’s budget and funds are managed responsibly.

**Length of Service**

Ideally Climbing committee chairs are excepted to serve the committee for three years. 1 year as the chair-elect, 1 year as the chair and one year following as the “Immediate Past Chair.” Depending on when the prospective climbing chair candidate is found the initial chair-elect year may be abbreviated to a few months.

**Time Commitment**

Committee chairs are expected to facilitate all committee meetings, attend Branch Council meetings, and attend their annual activity summit. Committee meetings take place once a month (first Tuesday at 7pm), skipping summer months of July and August. Branch Council meetings take place every other month. Activity summits, which are comprised of all of the organization’s committee chairs and key leaders for a given activity, take place twice a year usually in the spring and in the fall.

Correspondence with committee members, staff, and other volunteers is expected weekly. Committee chairs contribute an average of 10 hours a monthto this leadership role within The Mountaineers. More hours tend to be associated around preparing the budget in June for the following year and around the climbing summits.

**Suggested Experience**

* 2+ years climbing with The Mountaineers to ensure a general understanding of our course structure and skill standards
* An active interest and commitment to getting people outside and fostering volunteerism, conservation, engagement, and leadership skills in the outdoors.
* Knowledge of the greater northwest climbing community, ie Access Fund, Washington Climbers Coalition, Leavenworth Mountain Association, Washington Alpine Club, Boealps and Climbers of Color, and indoor climbing gyms.
* Availability to reply to email or phone messages within several days to one week.
* Good listening and communication skills and an ability to relate to a broad range of personalities.
* Experience with team leadership, project management, or organizational management, as well as a willingness to give peer-to-peer feedback.

**Support and Reporting**

The committee chair reports to their Branch Chair. They work closely with a group of dedicated volunteers who share a love of The Mountaineers and the outdoors. Mountaineers staff in every role (accounting, development, marketing, leadership development, and member services) are available to assist the person in this position.

**Benefits**

Serving as Seattle Climbing committee chair is an opportunity to provide leadership and support for your committee’s vision and goals, and to provide key support for some of your committee’s most dedicated volunteers. By working together with other committees across branches, this position allows for a deeply meaningful impact on both your committee and the larger organization. Committee leadership also provides you with key experience that can set you up for a future branch leadership or Board position, either at The Mountaineers or at another organization. Specific benefits include:

* Gain experience in organizational leadership and change management.
* Gain experience working with The Mountaineers policies, procedures, and website features.
* Gain experience running formal meetings using Robert’s Rules.
* Receive 50% off all books at the Bookstore.
* Receive 50% off one Mountaineers course each fiscal year.

**About the Committee**

Seattle Climbing is the largest committee in The Mountaineers. We offer 20 multi-day courses and many more stand-alone clinics and seminars each year. We have over 200 climbing leaders with around 50 very active leaders leading trips. More about our Seattle climbing can be found on [our webpage](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/seattle-climbing-committee-charter-5-5-20.pdf/view) and more about our committee structure can be found in [our charter.](https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-climbing-committee/committee-documents/seattle-climbing-committee-charter-5-5-20.pdf/view)

**How to Apply**

Please email Takeo Kuraishi (Immediate Past Chair) at takeo.kuraishi@gmail.com with a few sentences indicating your interest and your previous involvement with the Seattle Climbing Committee and The Mountaineers.

The committee is also taking nominations for climbing committee if you know a Mountaineers leader that you think would be a good fit please email Takeo.