



Welcome to Leader Lines

In this edition of LeaderLines, a monthly eNewsletter written especially for Mountaineers volunteer leaders. Like usual, there's a variety of information here. Take a look and see what applies to your unique role in The Mountaineers - or your life in general.

As always, I [welcome your suggestions for future story ideas](#) and thank you for all the ways you support our mission.

- Chris Williams,

Leadership Development Manager



Some of Your Feedback

It's rewarding to review the feedback our courses, trips, and instructors receive from participants and see what impact The Mountaineers is having on people because of your collective efforts. Take time to check out what people say in the "My Feedback" portion of your [profile](#). Here's what's been written lately:

- "The B3 course is one of the best I've taken with the Mountaineers. There is a ton of knowledge being shared, and this course has obviously taken a lot of planning and work to present everything as cohesively and efficiently as possible. This seminar was especially inspiring as far

as great way to save money, reduce pack weight and enjoyment of backpacking trips. This lightweight food seminar extends well beyond backpacking." -Received 4/28/16.

- "Very clear they shared their knowledge and expertise from years of experience. We so appreciated that we felt accepted and welcomed as novices and newcomers. They were excited to get us all going in to the mountains; that they showed up as volunteers after a work to do be in the class meant so much." Received 4/28/16.
- "When it stopped raining. The instructors added a whole new dimension to a walk in the park." Received 4/27/16
- "Calm, patient, clearly loved the activity and the location--made it a fun day for all experience levels." Received 4/27/16
- "Easy going, sense of humor, patient, serious when it comes to safety features." Received 4/26/16
- "I am so delighted to be a member of the Mountaineers but must honestly tell you it is so much more than I was expecting... I was not prepared for the intensity, knowledge, and warmth of the volunteers...Thank you- all of the wonderful volunteers - for giving so much to me and others." Received 4/28/16.

Passing on the skills and creating the community that helps people enjoy the outdoor experience has [life-long, profound benefits for everyone involved](#). Thank you all - keep up the great work.

Help Report Sick Bats

From our friends at the Department of Natural Resources: "This week, hikers near North Bend found a little brown bat with Washington's first recorded occurrence of [white-nose syndrome](#), a quick-spreading fungus harming bats. Our sister agency, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is asking people to report sick bats [online](#) or by calling their wildlife health hotline at (800) 606-8768. To learn more, click [here](#) .



"Urban Hiking" Season is Starting

Spring is here. It's the season when people with very little outdoor experience and/or an [over-developed sense of confidence](#) start hitting the trails. In one 2-mile stretch near Exit 32 on I-90 last season, I saw four parties dealing with sprained ankles. I also saw people in flip-flops. It's a predictable source of search and rescue work nationwide.

"Because these [locations] are usually only a few minutes away from a 7-11 or In-n-Out...to inexperienced hikers they seem to be safe and controlled environments and not the untamed wilds." - [The Problems of Urban Wilderness](#)

As an experienced outdoors person, we know it can be frustrating to see the same mistakes year after year. We work to increase public awareness to prevent these situations through the blogs we post, the courses we offer, and the examples we set as Mountaineers. If you decide to discuss your concerns with people you come across, try to remember these principles of effective leadership:

- [use timely, specific, clear feedback](#)
- [listen actively](#)
- [have courage to state what you think, feel and want](#)
- [try to put yourself in other people's shoes](#) (even if they're flip-flops)

[As Craig Romano wrote last year](#), these can be gateway experiences that develop a person into a skilled outdoor enthusiast with a passion for protecting the outdoor experience. The Mountaineers can play a role in helping in this journey.

Quick Hits

- **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month:** The Mountaineers has a reputation for safety, and that extends to the youth in our programs. We take no chances with the safety of children and insist on HIGH standards to ensure their well-being. In addition to our [youth policies](#), please [read this short article](#) about the importance of creating an organizational culture of putting kids first. If you ever have concerns - SAY SOMETHING so we can take action.
- **Reminder for climb leaders!** Reminder for climb leaders! The Glacier Climb template is for climbs without rocky summits (that do not require a rappel). Students with the glacier travel badge can participate in Glacier climbs, and rappelling isn't part of their curriculum. For example: Shuksan requires a rappel and should be listed as a Basic Alpine Climb, while Mount Baker via Easton Glacier should use the Glacier Climb template. Please note you can still list the difficulty as 'Basic Glacier' so students understand this will count towards their basic glacier requirement. You can view the list of [glacier-only climbs](#) online in the [Climbing Shared Resources](#) folder.
- **NEW Sea Kayaking Minimum Standards:** Once again, the Sea Kayakers have effectively and efficiently used a once-a-year summit to propose revisions to their minimum standards. The Branch Leadership Committee (fka as the "Managing Committee) approved them with some minor modifications and they are now in effect and govern all SK activities and courses. [Make sure you know what's in them.](#) Thanks to all who participated in the process. The next summit is scheduled for February 11, 2017 in Tacoma.
- **New committee role added to roster positions:** To onboard new volunteers, we've added the "Leadership" position to committee rosters. This allows committees to label a committee member as as the primary contact for "leadership" issues (just like "equivalency" and "courses"). This makes it easier for everyone (including Member Services) to find the right person to talk to about future volunteer opportunities. Be sure to select the "show as contact" box to publish the Leadership designated person's contact information.
- **Supporting our organizational capacity:** This year, we're going big with GiveBIG! From April 18-May 3, [we're participating in GiveBIG](#) - a day dedicated toward supporting Seattle-area nonprofits with a pool of matching gifts for your donations. We've got some surprises in store, so be sure to check your inbox!
- **New BD Recall:** [Black Diamond just issued a voluntary recall](#) for inspection of Easy Rider and Iron Cruiser Via Ferrata lanyard sets, Index Ascenders, Camalots and Camalot Ultralights. This is separate from the recall a few months ago.
- **Course "Guru" standing by:** Last month we advertised a posting for a volunteer(s) to help all Leaders post courses online (one of your more onerous tasks). Well, we got one! When you go to push the ["magic button"](#) now, Member Services has reinforcements to help you get your course posted, hopefully saving you a few minutes of precious time. Thanks to Kevin McBeth for stepping up!
- **Appropriate or foolish?** Would you allow your [12-year old child to attempt the summit of Everest?](#)

- **Number of Leader Badges Issued in 2016:** 110 (we had only issued 79 at this point last year). Keep up the great work developing these new leaders!

Stay Safe Out There!