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## Welcome,

The winter is flying by, and we can hardly believe February is nearly behind us. What a month! We launched an [integrated website](#), took 17 climbers to Canmore as a part of our first Alpine Ambassadors program, and continued to do more and more of what we do best: deliver outstanding courses, clinics, and trips! This month, we had more than 40 different courses already in-session, many of which will continue through the spring and summer months. Thank you for all that you do to support The Mountaineers!

In this edition of LeaderLines, we provide an update on permits, share takeaways from last fall's Wilderness Risk Management Conference, and continue exploring ways The Mountaineers can create more diverse and inclusive programs. Is there something that you'd like to see in a future edition of LeaderLines? Please email [Sara Ramsay](#) with any thoughts or suggestions!

We hope that you enjoy the last few weeks of winter! May the month of March [come in like a lion](#), giving us a few more classic PNW snowstorms before the return of spring.

**Sara Ramsay and Steve Smith,**  
**Adult Education Managers**

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### **Leader Spotlight: Danielle Graham**

Leader Spotlight is a monthly showcase of the incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. It is a platform for our leaders to share tips and tricks, favorite memories, and inspiration for new and rising leaders. For our Leader Spotlight this month we talked to Danielle Graham, a volunteer leader with the Foothills Branch who encourages aspiring leaders to glean tips and tricks from every leader they interact with, and who wants all members to feel valued and included in The Mountaineers' community.

[Read More](#)



### **Alpine Ambassadors**

In mid-February, The Mountaineers sent 17 climb leaders to Canmore for a week of skill development. Learn about the latest adventures of these Alpine Ambassadors, a new group formed out of our Progressive Climbing Education initiatives!

[Read More](#)

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### **Lessons Learned: Wilderness Risk Management Conference**

One of the best ways for us to learn lessons is to dedicate time towards continuing education and engaging with industry leaders. The Mountaineers sent Olympia safety aficionado Brent Williams to the [Wilderness Risk Management Conference](#) (WRMC) in Portland, Maine, and he came back with a slew of new ideas for uplifting safety and risk management across the organization. [Check out his takeaways](#) from the conference.

[Read More](#)

The Wilderness Risk Management Conference will be in Portland, Oregon, this October and

the conference is currently accepting [submissions](#) for conference presentations. If you have questions about WRMC or how to get involved, please email [Steve Smith](#).



### **Leader Logistics: Growing Permit Requirements**

As our organization grows and as land managers evolve their management plans, The Mountaineers is required to obtain permits for more and more areas. Please note that leaders are now required to carry a copy (or image on their phone) of our [nominal use letter](#) when recreating on trails in the Snoqualmie Ranger District. This goes for trips and field trips alike! Remember, the best place to get land manager info about permits is in the route/place listing - you will also find a link to this nominal use letter on the applicable route/place listings.

If you are interested in starting a new course or program and you anticipate a large group size (more than 12 individuals), please reach out to our Education Managers to discuss permitting!

- [Steve Smith](#) (Climbing, Scrambling, Avalanche Safety, Backcountry Skiing, Snowshoeing)
- [Sara Ramsay](#) (Sea Kayaking, Hiking & Backpacking, Nordic Skiing, Navigation, Sailing)



### Leader Logistics: Routes & Places

Speaking of our [Routes & Places](#), please help us to keep our information accurate and up-to-date! If you notice a route/place listing that needs to be improved or corrected, or if you have new images or resources to add, please complete the [Route/Place Updates, Images & Resources Form](#). Pro tip! You'll find a link to this form in the top right-hand corner of every route/place listing page. You can also find more information about our Routes & Places database on [our website](#).

Visit Routes & Places

### Quick Hits

- **A word from our CEO on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Members of our staff recently attended a seminar on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Read our [key takeaways and learn what's next](#) for The Mountaineers when it comes to investing in DE&I.
- **A picture's worth a thousand words.** See how Mount Rainier glaciers have vanished over time in this [eye-opening photo project](#).
- **Making our programs more accessible and diverse.** As a follow-up to one of our Quick Hits in December, [we take a look](#) at IA's podcast "Get Out: Nurturing A Bond Between Black People And Nature."
- **One spot left** in the Foothills Branch's [Intensive Alpine Scramble Leader Training](#).
- **You belong here.** "This body is deemed a failure to many who judge it by its face value. It is devalued even, protested, and placed in the category of the unseemly. But

take her out in the wild and she proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that instead of embodying burden, [she is a powerful force.](#)"

- **Recycle!** A great [new option](#) for recycling used fuel canisters, right in Seattle. Thanks MSR!
- **Need a laugh?** We found [the film](#) for our next Bad Movie Night!
- **Meet more Mountaineers!** Each week we feature a Mountaineer of the Week on our blog. We'd like to introduce you to [Kimber Cross](#), a 1-year member and kindergarten teacher from Tacoma born without fingers on her right hand. As an adaptive climber she's had to modify the methods most use to climb, but she summits mountains all the same.
- **From our magazine:** Every year, around 1,000 climbers attempt to summit Denali, with a success rate averaging 50%. Many Mountaineers members have been to the summit, including Charles Crenshaw in 1964, the first African-American to climb Denali. In June of 2016, Evan Moses of the Everett Branch [summitted the peak](#) with a private party of four, and an engagement followed.
- **Backpack woes.** We know [the feeling](#)....

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

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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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