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LEADERLINES

monthly e-news for Mountaineers volunteers



Welcome,

This edition of LeaderLines comes with a mix of emotions. Summer has arrived in the PNW, and with it, a little reprieve from this spring's quarantine. As our programs [gradually reopen](#), we're excited to hear from leaders who are hitting the trail and reconnecting with their communities. We're also beginning to plan for our upcoming year of programming, and we're eager to explore ways to leverage the power of remote participation across our branches.

At the same time, we continue to be mindful of the very real impacts COVID-19 has had on our current and future operations. In an effort to preserve our core operations, The Mountaineers made the difficult decision to [eliminate several staff positions](#) this spring and summer. Many of our remaining staff will also be on furlough for much of July, with as many as 50% of our staff out of the office at any given time. We thank you in advance for your patience as we rebalance responsibilities, and for your continued support as we [navigate our new normal](#). Please email info@mountaineers.org if you're ever unsure of who to contact and our Member Services team can direct your request.

In addition, it is with great sadness that we reflect on the [passing of Marty Babare](#), an active 23-year member of The Mountaineers Tacoma Branch. Marty was a beloved leader in our community and a friend to many, most recently serving as the Tacoma Climbing Committee Chair. Our deepest sympathies go out to Marty's family and all of those in our Mountaineers community who are affected by his passing. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you need anything.

There is a lot of turbulence and heartache in the world at this moment, and our intent isn't to open the newsletter on an overly sober note. We have a lot to be grateful for, and a lot to be hopeful for, as well. We hope you find both joy and inspiration in this month's edition of LeaderLines. Here's to charting new waters and navigating them together. Thanks to each of you for your creativity, generosity, and support of The Mountaineers this spring, and for being a steadfast member of our community!

Be well,

Sara Ramsay & Nick Block
Education Department



Leader Spotlight: Thomas Bancroft

Leader Spotlight is a monthly blog to showcase our incredible volunteer leadership at The Mountaineers. Meet this month's featured leader: Thomas Bancroft. He is a life-long lover of birds (despite an allergy to both eggs and feathers!) who believes that the ability to identify local wildlife is critical to fostering a sense of care for our wild places.

Tom is one of many Mountaineers volunteers to embrace online learning during this spring's COVID-19 closures. His course **Birding in Quarantine**, co-led by [Danielle Graham](#), was a massive success, drawing over 180 students from throughout the club and beyond. Thank you to Tom and all of our volunteers who've championed the power of remote connection and online learning during quarantine.

[Read More](#)

The Mountaineers Gala is Going Virtual

In case you haven't heard, The Mountaineers Gala, rescheduled for July 23, is going virtual. **And we want you to join the fun!** If you've always wanted to check out the Gala, or even if you haven't but are ready to jump in now, we invite you to join us for a unique gala experience. It includes a week-long online auction, a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Governor Daniel J. Evans by Sally Jewell, plus a celebrity-studded surprise video you'll have to see to believe (we won't spoil all of the surprises, but you can expect to hear from [last year's keynote speaker](#) again!).

All funds raised through the auction and individual donations will support The Mountaineers core operations in the year to come. The benefit of an online gala is that there is no ticket to

purchase, and you're welcome to participate whether you make a gift or not (although we hope you'll be inspired to give after the program). Get your name on the list to receive the latest information either by pre-registering for the online auction or signing up for the free virtual event!

[Learn More](#)



Lessons Learned: How to Be a Better Ally

For many of us, the recent Black Lives Matter protests have been a catalyst for learning. Addressing racism and racist systems in our country - including how black people and other communities of color access the outdoors - starts at home with self-education. The experience of being outdoors is [not the same for all](#). We invite you to learn along with us, and to support The Mountaineers stand for racial justice. Not sure where to start? We recommend leveraging the incredible work of the folks at Melanin Base Camp and diving into their [Guide to Outdoor Allyship](#). Additional resources are linked on our [Equity & Inclusion Committee](#) page.

[Read our full commitment](#) to fighting racism in the outdoors.



Access & Permits: Summer Permits & Goodbye to Amanda

If you're planning to run course-related programming in Leavenworth this summer, please contact [Sara Ramsay](#) to let us know before scheduling your field trip. With the suspension of this year's rock lottery due to COVID-19, we'll need to confirm with the Wenatchee River Ranger District that The Mountaineers is approved for those user days, regardless of if you've already submitted the trip or if you're adding a new one.

Additionally, we want to extend a special shout out and [thank you to Amanda Virbitsky](#), whose last day at The Mountaineers will be on July 2. Amanda has been an integral member of our staff team over the past 3 years, and we'll miss the steadfast support she's provided to both staff and volunteers across many aspects of the organization - including her thoughtful and detailed approach to our permit management. Amanda's position is one of several eliminated as a part of our COVID-19 response. We wish her the best on her next adventure.

Please Note: As our staff team works to rebalance roles and responsibilities, email info@mountaineers.org if you're unsure of who to contact and Member Services will direct your request. If you have specific permit-related questions, please contact [Sara Ramsay](#).



Leader Logistics: Social Media Moderation

In the age of digital connectivity, we recognize that Facebook has become an important social and group forum tool for many Mountaineers committees and courses to connect and share. As an organization, The Mountaineers only officially manages our [one central Facebook page](#). To support the volunteer Facebook moderators for our many “unofficial” committee and course groups, we’ve built a new Basecamp for Facebook admins that’s meant to be a resource where we can share ideas and collectively navigate any moderation challenges that may arise. Please email [Kristina Ciari](#) to be added to this group.

Please Note: Because The Mountaineers does not directly manage our committee and course Facebook groups, it is ultimately up to each group to self-manage. Additionally, because not everyone chooses to be a part of platforms like Facebook, we encourage committees and courses not to use this as a means for communication about any official club business – Facebook pages should be used solely for community building and supporting purposes. Best practice is to use the email functionality available through our website for all official communications.

Quick Hits

- **Got extra time?** Help the Access Fund and Washington Climbers Coalition do trail work in the Enchantments. We’re looking for volunteers to commit to 1-3 days of work on weekdays in July. Contact [Betsy Robblee](#), our new Conservation & Advocacy Director, to learn more!
- **Borrow gear and spread the word!** With groups not gathering due to COVID-19, we're extending our [gear library lending to individuals](#).
- **Climbing Rainier?** The park has [issued new guidelines](#) for this season.
- **Finding Family in the Passenger Seat.** “Hiking is free. As long as you have shoes and an Orca card, [you can go anywhere](#).”

- **From Mount Nyiragongo to Everest.** “I think there will be one young person out there who will look at me and feel encouraged and inspired and [do things in their own way.](#)”
- **Cheers to Alphabet Rock!** Congratulations to our friends at the Access Fund for [permanently protecting Alphabet Rock.](#) The Mountaineers is proud to support this effort and thanks our partners who worked for years to make it happen. We’re especially excited that this project was made possible by funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a critical source of funding for public lands that our members have long supported.
- **Camping in Antarctica.** A very short, and highly enjoyable, guide to [Union Glacier Camp.](#)
- **“In the past, we were not allowed.** Our relatives were not allowed. We come from a history of people who were not allowed. Whose movements were made illegal. And then once we and our movements became legal. We were never officially invited. Only permitted. There is a difference. We don’t get to take freedom of movement for granted.”
- **Inside insights.** In [this piece](#) from *Mountaineer* magazine we hear about our new Virtual Education Center, and how virtual tools are allowing our branches and members to stay as connected and active as ever.

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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