

## **The Mountaineers Climbing Programs Minimum Club-Wide Standards**

### **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for The Mountaineers Climbing Programs**

#### **Introduction**

These standards were developed as a joint effort of the Chairs of the Climbing Committees of The Mountaineers (Bellingham, Everett, Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, and Wenatchee). The purpose of these standards is to establish a uniform set of minimum requirements for all of the Climbing Programs offered by The Mountaineers. These uniform standards will make it easier for students from the various Branches to participate in the activities of Branches other than the one with which they are directly affiliated. In addition, these uniform standards will make it easier for The Mountaineers to represent its Climbing Programs to interested parties outside the organization.

In developing these standards, care was taken to maintain autonomy of the various Branches. Each Branch retains ultimate responsibility for the implementation of its Climbing Programs.

The creation of these proposed club-wide standards was a natural development from the Climbing Summits, semi annual meetings of the Climbing Chairs from all of the Branches. This series of meetings started in 1996. Other significant accomplishments from these meetings have included: 1) the development of a priority system for popular climbs to avoid schedule conflicts (Baker, Coleman-Deming Glacier; Ingalls, South Ridge; Rainier, Disappointment Cleaver; Rainier, Emmons Glacier; South Early Winter Spire, South Arete; and the Tooth, South Face); and 2) close coordination of field trip schedules to avoid over crowding of popular training areas.

At the 27 September 1997 Climbing Summit meeting in Tacoma, the attendees agreed to develop these Club-Wide Standards. This document is the product of the five meetings that were held on 7 December 1997, 25 January 1998, 14 March 1998, 26 September 1998, and 23 January 1999.

#### **Contributors**

A number of people have attended at least one of these meetings and contributed to development of these standards.

**Bellingham:** Louis Brueggeman, Steven Glenn & Don Johnston

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## Definition of terms

**Branch:** Subdivision of The Mountaineers; includes Bellingham, Everett, Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, and Wenatchee. Note that for purposes of this document, Seattle is considered a Branch.

**Climb:** Any trip that is an alpine, glacier, rock, ice, or mountaineering climb as defined by the Branch Climbing Committee offered as a Basic, Intermediate, or Club Climb.

**Climbing Committee:** Group of individuals within a Branch responsible for the Branch climbing program.

**Climb Leader:** Person who plans a climbing trip (type: alpine, glacier, rock, ice, mountaineering; level: Basic, Intermediate, Club) and is responsible for decision making concerning the trip, including but not limited to the trip itself.

**MOFA:** Mountaineering Oriented First Aid.

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## **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for the Basic Climbing Course**

Basic Climbing Course content must include:

1. Belaying with a device and with a Münter hitch.
2. Rappelling with two methods, one of which must be the carabiner brake system.
3. Self belaying on rappel.
4. Belay tie-off and escape from system.
5. Roped glacier travel, and crevasse rescue by a single rope method other than direct pull.
6. Knots: water knot, rewoven figure eight, double fisherman's (grapevine), double bowline, clove hitch, Münter hitch, prusik, girth hitch, and figure eight on a bight.
7. Ice axe arrest.
8. Quick belaying on snow.
9. Snow travel (including crampon use, and avalanche safety and awareness) and snow camping.
10. Navigation.
11. Rock climbing.
12. Snow anchors: deadman, picket, fluke, bollard.
13. Ascending a fixed line by use of a friction knot system.
14. Minimum impact travel and camping.

On Basic Climbs, climbers must carry:

1. Helmet, if appropriate for the climb. A helmet is required on all rock climbs.
2. Ten essentials.
3. Food, clothing, and equipment appropriate to the climb.

Successful completion of MOFA is required to graduate from the Basic Climbing Course.

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### **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for the Intermediate Climbing Course**

Intermediate Climbing Course content must include:

1. Leading on fifth class rock.
2. Leading on alpine ice.
3. Small party self rescue.
4. Winter mountaineering.
5. Leadership.

On Intermediate Climbs, climbers must carry:

1. Helmet, if appropriate for the climb.
2. Ten essentials.
3. Food, clothing, and equipment appropriate to the climb.

Successful completion of MOFA is required to graduate from the Intermediate Climbing Course.

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### **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for Basic and Intermediate Field Trip Instructors**

1. Member of The Mountaineers in good standing.
2. A graduate of the Basic Climbing Course or someone holding Basic Equivalency status. (A Basic or Intermediate student who has previously completed the specified field trip may instruct at the field trip).
3. Approved by the Branch Climbing Committee to instruct.

### **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for Climb Leaders**

#### Initial requirements

1. Member of The Mountaineers in good standing, and at least 18 years of age.
  2. Approved by the Climbing Committee to lead climbs. Restrictions regarding the types of climbs led is at the discretion of the Climbing Committee.
  3. A graduate of the Basic Course or someone holding Basic Equivalency status.
  4. Successfully summited at least 2 climbs offered through The Mountaineers where the applicant acts in a leadership role (rope leader, assistant leader, mentored leader)
  5. A MOFA graduate.
  6. Attended a Leadership Seminar within two years prior to becoming a Climb Leader.
- Activities which meet the requirement of a Leadership Seminar shall be defined by each Branch Climbing Committee.

#### Requirements for continuing participation

- 1 Member of The Mountaineers in good standing.
2. Update skills every 5 years to maintain familiarity with current techniques.
3. Lead at least one climb within every consecutive 3 year period from the date of initial approval as a Climb Leader. The climb must be a Climbing Committee sponsored climb.
4. Approved by the Climbing Committee to continue to lead climbs.

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## **Minimum Club-Wide Standards for Accident Response on a Climb**

Before the trip:

1. Trip leader will make sure that someone in the party has current MOFA training or equivalent.
2. The party will carry at least one Mountaineers First Aid/Accident Report Form.
3. Trip leader will know the relevant jurisdiction(s) that the party will be in and have all necessary telephone number(s).
4. Trip leader will let the party know who is responsible for party leadership if he or she becomes incapacitated.
5. Trip leader will designate the MOFA leader as the person who will direct the first aid response following an accident.
6. Trip leader will inquire about any pre-existing medical conditions that exist among party members.

At the time of an accident:

1. Trip leader or designee retains leadership of the party.
2. A Mountaineers First Aid/Accident Report Form must be filled out as first aid is performed, or as soon as practicable.

After the accident, the trip leader or designee is responsible for the following:

1. The Mountaineers must be notified as soon as practicable, whenever injuries require outside assistance, or hospital care for the victim. See the Mountaineers First Aid/Accident Report Form for procedures.
2. The trip leader or designee must file a copy of the First Aid/Accident Report Form with the Executive Director within two weeks of the accident.

**-END-**

*13 November 1999*

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