
The Ken Nelson Climbing Award

The Ken Nelson Memorial Climbing Award is presented to honor a member of the Everett Mountaineers for distinguished service to the climbing program. It symbolizes the heritage of volunteerism and leadership which is so vital to the Mountaineers.

The award was established in 1986 in memory of Ken Nelson, a very active Everett Climbing Committee member, who died in a tragic mountaineering accident on Mt. Robson.

This year the Ken Nelson Memorial Climbing Award was given to Tom Borst. Tom has been active with the climbing program since the award's inception. He has been very generous in donating his time and knowledge over the years. Tom has instructed at each of the basic and intermediate course field trips. Tom is routinely asked to lead field trips for the intermediate class; rock, ice, and winter bivouac. His field trips are always fun and encouraging for both students and other instructors.

In addition to his role as an instructor Tom is an active club leader at both the basic and intermediate levels. Tom is also asked to mentor new climb leaders.

There is also a humanitarian criteria for the Ken Nelson Memorial Climbing Award. Tom has demonstrated this with his involvement with Search and Rescue. Tom was active for many years in the Everett Mountain Rescue Council and subsequently with the Bellingham Area Mountain Rescue Council.

—Mats Robertson