

Castle Peak Prospectus

Peak: Castle Peak	Route: East Face	Mazama Climb Grade: C
Elevation: 6,562 ft.	Mazama Climb # 15331	Leader: Toby Contreras
Out of town: June 20 or 21, 2026	Summit: June 21, 2026	Asst. Leader: Kate Strube

When you get this prospectus:

- Please reply to this email to let me know you've received the prospectus and can open any email attachments.
- Please let me know of any corrections or updates to your personal information and any health concerns..
- Forward a copy of this prospectus to someone in town (usually your emergency contact).

General information:

The Castle is situated in the Tatoosh Range in Mt Rainier National Park. It is a good peak to learn or practice fifth-class climbing in a mountain environment and provides amazing views of Tahoma (Mt. Rainier), Pahto/Klickitat (Mt Adams), and Loowit (Mt. St. Helens). The summit is composed of two roughly parallel ridges and can be reached by 2 miles of trail and a short scramble.

Castle Peak on the land of the [Nisqually](#) people. You can learn more about the history, culture, and current affairs of this nation using the link above.

References:

- **Maps:** [USGS 7-minute series, Tatoosh Lakes](#). **GPS:** [GPX track file for your GPS or smartphone](#), and **KML File:** [\(Google Earth\)](#)
- **Weather:** [Mountain Forecast](#), [NOAA](#), [Windy](#), [MeteoBlue](#)

Meeting time and driving directions:

Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking space at the campground. Please fill out this [spreadsheet](#) with your carpool and travel plans for the climb. Camping will be available for Saturday night only, however if you want to make your own plans for Friday night (or the weekend) you are welcome to do so.

We will depart the [Reflection Lakes trailhead](#). Please arrive early enough to have your boots on, pack packed, and be ready to begin the climb by 8 AM. You can either camp with the team the night before at [Cougar Rock Campground](#) (sites TBD) or drive up the morning of the climb and meet at the trailhead.

Directions from Portland: Head north on I-5. Take Exit 68 for US-12 E towards Morton/Yakima. Stay on US-12 E for 31 miles to the town of Morton. In Morton, turn left onto 2nd Street/WA-7 N. Stay on WA-7 N for 16 miles until WA-7 N dead ends at WA-706 in the town of Elbe. Turn right onto WA-706. After 14 miles you will enter Mount Rainier National Park.

- Cougar Rock Campground is inside Mount Rainier National Park, on the left about 8.5 miles after the entrance gate.
- To reach the trailhead, continue past Cougar Rock Campground. Stay on Paradise Road E for 7 miles then turn right on Stevens Canyon Road. The Reflection Lakes trailhead is ~1.5 miles down Stevens Canyon Road.

Roundtrip mileage from Portland is about 320 miles. If you choose the carpool, the Mazamas suggested gas contribution is \$0.10 cents per mile, or \$32 per person to a maximum of \$100 per car, payable to the driver. One way drive time is 3½ hours depending on traffic. The most dangerous part of the trip may well be the drive home. Please take a nap along the way if you need to.

Permits / Fees (Trail, entrance, parking):

Mount Rainier National Park requires an entry pass for each car. Passes are \$30 for seven consecutive days or \$55 for an annual pass. You can purchase a pass ahead of time at [Recreation.gov](#) or pay at the pay station at the entrance to the park.

We will split the campsite costs between any who stay overnight. I'll be heading up Friday morning and will try to get the group sites. I'll send an email Friday afternoon confirming which spots we have. There is also a message board by the entry station and I'll leave a note there as well.

Climbing Skills Required:

Snow Travel including self-belay, self-arrest, and glissading
Rock climbing up to low 5th class, Rappelling

If you haven't climbed for a while, please review the BCEP Basecamp Modules for [Snow Travel](#) and [Rappelling](#).

Anyone going on the climb must be in good condition. Climbers not able to keep pace with the group may be turned back at the leader's discretion.

Approach, climb, and descent:

We will meet at the Reflection Lakes parking lot at 7 AM. From the trailhead we will hike through the snow, possibly along a boot track. We'll likely diverge from the summer trail towards the saddle between Pinnacle and Castle Peaks

From the saddle, we'll traverse to our left around the back side of Castle and scramble up to the start of the route. We'll belay the first pitch on a top rope. The top of that pitch is a wide area where we can spread out, and I'll set a fixed line to the true summit (a short scramble). The climb has a couple of vertical spots that are rated 5.6 Climbing shoes are not required. I don't expect to be at the top very long but feel free to put a snack in your pocket.

To descend, we'll rappel the same route we climbed, then traverse back over to the saddle and descend to the trailhead. Depending on conditions, we may glissade. The total ascent is approx. 2,000' feet.

Climb Evaluation:

What did you think of your climb and the leader? An online evaluation form will be emailed to you after the climb. Your feedback is appreciated and helps us improve our climbs.

Mazamas Climb Regulations:

- In case of accident, illness, or other incapacity, a climber must pay for his/her own medical and/or evacuation expenses, whether or not he/she has specifically authorized them. Note that all Mazama members have rescue insurance.
- Pets, firearms, alcoholic beverages and radios (other than ham radio transmitters or weather radios) are not permitted on climbs or in base camps.
- No one will be permitted on the climb who has taken or used substances (including medication) which impairs performance or judgment.
- Climbers shall carry out everything they carry in.
- Climbers 17 years of age or under must furnish the climb leader with a written parental or guardian permission slip.
- Climbers 14 years of age or under must be accompanied on the climb by an adult responsible for them, who shall be required to remain with or descend with them. Neither the leader nor the assistant leader of any climb shall be the responsible adult for a climber 14 years of age or younger. If the "responsible adult" descends, all climbers for whom he/she is responsible shall be required to descend as well.

Cancellation:

I will be monitoring weather and avalanche forecasts (and you should, too!); any decision to cancel will be made by Wednesday, June 17th no later than 9 PM. If you do not hear from me by this time, assume the climb is still on and meet at the location listed above.

If you need to cancel, please contact me ASAP so I can offer your spot to another climber.

Emergency Phone numbers:

If the party is late, concerned friends or relatives should first contact **Christine Troy (503-318-3553)**. If there is a problem, I will be in touch with her by cell phone or Garmin In-Reach. They can also call the Mazamas Mountaineering Center at 503-227-2345.

Please leave these numbers with someone responsible in town:

Mazamas Mountaineering Center Emergency Activation: 503-227-2345, ext. 3
Mt. Rainer NP, Park HQ: 360-569-2211 ext. 2334
Mt. Rainer NP (after hours) Lewis County S&R: 360-740-1105

Climb Team

Name	Role	Email	Phone	Emergency Contact	Emergency Contact Phone
Toby Contreras	Leader	tobcon@msn.com	(503) 341-6757	Linda Grice	(916) 337-5430
Kate Strube	Assistant Leader	kate.strube17@gmail.com	(314) 556-0007	Claire Strube	(314) 556-0006
Heather Brech	Participant	hbrech@hotmail.com	(937) 416-4275	Stephanie Pierce	(503) 896-8595
Tim King	Participant	twking6@gmail.com	(928) 530-5202	Lauren King	(928) 716-4923
Jacob Lippincott	Participant	jcurtislippincott@gmail.com	(252) 562-2476	Leslie Lippincott	(252) 562-2696
Kellie ODonnell	Participant	kzodonnell@gmail.com	(971) 506-7551	Leah Walsh	(503) 381-5873
Kathryn Villarreal	Participant	love.the.earth.rrr@gmail.com	(925) 339-9826	Helene Villarreal	(925) 337-3926
Madison Monroe	Participant	madmon03@gmail.com	(860) 951-2578	Ellen Monroe	(860) 989-4046

Gear Checklist

x = required, o = optional, L = leader to provide

Clothing

- ☐ x crampon compatible boots
- ☐ o Gaiters (strongly encouraged)
- ☐ x wool or synthetic socks
- ☐ o liner socks
- ☐ x thermal underwear top
- ☐ o thermal underwear bottom
- ☐ x fleece jacket
- ☐ x fleece/synthetic pants or tights
- ☐ x wind/water resistant jacket
- ☐ x wind/water resistant jacket pants/bibs
- ☐ x mittens or gloves
- ☐ o thin liner gloves
- ☐ o hat with visor or brim (for sun)
- ☐ x fleece or wool hat or balaclava
- ☐ o nylon shorts
- ☐ x synthetic T-shirt

Food

- ☐ x lunch
- ☐ x snacks
- ☐ o carbohydrate or Gatorade-type mix for water

Climbing Gear

- ☐ x helmet
- ☐ x ice axe
- ☐ x crampons (adjusted to fit boots **before** you leave town)
- ☐ x climbing harness
- ☐ x belay carabiner and belay device
- ☐ x autoblock and locking carabiner
- ☐ x personal protection and locking carabiner
- ☐ x Prusik loops (2)
- ☐ x 2-3 additional locking carabiners

If Camping the Night Before

- ☐ x dinner (and gear/utensils to prepare and eat)
- ☐ x breakfast (and gear/utensils to prepare and eat)
- ☐ x sleeping bag
- ☐ x sleeping pad
- ☐ x tent (unless sleeping in car)
- ☐ x toiletries

10+ essentials

- ☐ x whistle
- ☐ x navigation (map and compass)
- ☐ x sun protection (sunscreen, lip balm and sunglasses)
- ☐ x headlamp/flashlight, with extra batteries
- ☐ x extra food (i.e., Clif bars)
- ☐ x extra clothing (extra layer, socks, gloves, hat)
- ☐ x fire (matches/lighter/firestarter in waterproof container)
- ☐ x emergency shelter (space blanket, bivy bag, large heavy duty garbage bag)
- ☐ x repair kit and tools, including knife
- ☐ x first aid kit

Other

- ☐ x maps to trailhead
- ☐ o electronics (cell phone / GPS)
- ☐ x water bottle or bladder (2 liters - no water at trailhead)
- ☐ o trekking poles
- ☐ o handkerchief / bandanna (drippy noses are a drag)
- ☐ x large heavy duty garbage bag – for glissading
- ☐ x blue bags & toilet paper
- ☐ o clean clothes and comfy shoes for drive home
- ☐ o post-climb snacks
- ☐ x Insect repellent
- ☐ o face mask (if carpool preference)
- ☐ x spare battery for cell phone and charging cable
- ☐ o small summit pack

Group Gear (provided by leader and split between team to carry)

- ☐ L emergency bivy sack
- ☐ L insulating pad
- ☐ L shovel
- ☐ L stove/ and fuel
- ☐ L ropes (2)
- ☐ L alpine trad rack (hexes, Tri-Cams, small cams, nuts)
- ☐ L alpine draws (12-14)
- ☐ L cleaning tools (2)
- ☐ L webbing for rappel anchors
- ☐ L quicklinks for rappel anchors
- ☐ L radios (3)