



AMC Berkshire Chapter Leadership Requirements for Hike Leaders

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to define along with the AMC Berkshire Leader Handbook, and the [AMC Leadership Requirements and Guidelines](#) (LRG) the requirements and guidelines for AMC Berkshire Chapter members to become Hiking and Backpack leaders.

Definitions:

- Local Hike: Hikes with little or no elevation change (1000' or less), easy to moderate terrain, any season of the year, generally 5 miles or less and completed in one-day, for example Tuesday Hiker Hikes.
- Day Hikes: Day hikes with significant elevation change, all types of terrain, generally 5 miles or more, e.g. Mt. Greylock in MA, Mt. Monadnock in NH.
- Multi-Day Trip: Multi-day trips must be within 500 miles of Berkshire County and less than 10 days in duration. (Trips of longer duration/distance must be approved by the AMC Adventure Travel Committee. <http://www.outdoors.org/outdoor-activities/adventure-travel/>) Multi-days trips which consist of more than one type of activity must have a qualified leader for each activity which is being offered as part of the trip.
- Winter Day Hike: Day Hikes occurring between December 1- March 31
- Backpack: A multi-day hike that consists of one or more nights at a backcountry tent site, cabin or hut.

Hiking: includes local hikes, day hikes, backpacks, hut-trips, snowshoeing and multi-day trips which include hiking as an activity

General Requirements

- Must be over the age of 18.
- Must be a current and active member of the AMC
- Must complete a Chapter or Club sponsored one or two- day class based on the AMC Outdoor Leadership Training Handbook which covers basic leadership training at a more detailed level.
- Must co-lead at least two (2) approved activities at the target level of activity they plan on leading. The co-leads have to be with at least two different approved Berkshire Chapter leaders. The co-leads must be evaluated using the Berkshire Chapter Leader-in-Training Evaluation Form.



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- At least one of the co-leads must be a "mentor" trip. A mentor trip is an outing where the candidate for leader status takes on the role of "leader" and is overseen by an approved Berkshire Chapter leader. The leader is on the trip as an observer. The idea is to allow the candidate for leader status to coordinate all aspects of the trip including planning the trip, screening participants, acquiring permits etc.
- Must have current CPR and either First Aid or Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification.
- Must have demonstrated experience and skill in the activity they would like to lead
- Must complete the training and co-leading process within 12 months.

Specific Requirements for Hike and Backpack Leaders:

Must meet all General Leader Requirements:

Local Hike Leader (includes local snowshoe hikes):

Completed First Aid and CPR certifications.

Day Hike Leader: (three season)

Recent hiking experience, demonstrated knowledge of hiking skills (i.e. map reading)
Wilderness First Aid Certification

Backpack/Hut-to-Hut Hike Leader(three season):

Recent Backpacking experience
Wilderness First Aid Certification

Winter Hike Leaders: the requirements below are for day hikes, backpacks and hut trips

Recent winter hiking experience
Basic Winter Mountaineering skills (crampon/ice axe use, self-arrest, etc.)
Wilderness First Aid Certification

Multi-day Hike Leaders leading trips outside of 500 mi from Berkshire County or trip duration that exceeds 10 days: the requirements below are for multi-day hikes or backpack trips lead outside of 500 miles from Berkshire county or exceed 10 days in duration :

Completed all leadership training and co-lead requirements for AMC Adventure Travel leadership.

Wilderness First Aid Certification appropriate to AMC Adventure Travel specifications

Local Hike Leaders may lead only local hikes.

Day Hike Leaders are qualified to lead local hikes and three season day hikes.

Backpack Leaders are qualified to lead local, day and three season backpacks.

Winter Hike Leaders are qualified to lead day, backpack and hut trips all seasons of the year.