

**BERKSHIRE CHAPTER, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB**  
**• Outings Committee •**  
**LEADER QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES**

Revised: January 2007

- All current leaders will be “grandfathered.”
- All grandfathered leaders are encouraged to meet these Guidelines.
- These Guidelines apply to hiking and backpacking activities under the Outings and Young Members Committees.

**All New Leaders**

New Berkshire Chapter Leaders must satisfy the following requirements:

1. a) Successfully complete the AMC Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training course.

**OR**

- b) Successfully complete another chapter’s Leadership Requirements in the desired skill area.

**AND**

2. Successfully co-lead three (minimum) scheduled Chapter trips with at least two different leaders. The leaders must certify that the candidate has met the requirements of each stage of the co-leading process. Candidates may begin the co-leading process prior to taking the formal training, but must complete formal training prior to submitting their request for leadership status to the Outings Chair. The process should be completed within one year of notifying the Outings Chair of the candidate’s intent to earn leadership status.

The leadership candidate must make arrangements with an active leader requesting to act as a co-leader. The Outings Chair or an Outings Monthly Coordinator can assist with this effort.

Co-leading activities will include the following:

Outing #1: Leader will include the candidate in any leadership activities the leader and candidate feel comfortable with, including trip planning, logistical preparations, etc. The candidate cannot be involved in assessing potential participants at this time, but the leader should discuss methods used in assessment.

Outing #2: Leader will include the candidate in most of the leadership activities. Depending upon the leader’s assessment of the candidate, the leader may still be solely responsible for assessing participants at this time.

Outing #3: Leader will permit the candidate the opportunity to conduct all phases of the leadership process from the activity’s selection to its successful completion. The leader will be present at each step in the process to lend support and guidance. If at any time the leader concludes that the trip is at risk (for safety or logistical reasons, or due to the inexperience of the co-leader), it is the leader’s responsibility to step in and assist in redirecting the activity back into a positive situation.

If after co-leading three outings the candidate desires more experience, he/she may continue to co-lead outings until comfortable with the process. Or, the candidate may discuss with the Outings Chair to help determine his/her progress toward a leadership position. The candidate may also wish to participate in a separate, Chapter-organized mentoring program.

Trip leader evaluations, along with a listing of the formal training attended, must be submitted to the Outings Chair for confirmation and approval.

**Alternate:**

**Former Berkshire Chapter leaders or leaders with training and experience developed through other outings organizations:** Be recommended by a Berkshire Chapter leader based on equivalent previous experience, such as having led hiking or backpacking trips for any AMC chapter, the Sierra Club, or a similar organization. Candidates with such previous experience may apply for approval by contacting the Berkshire Chapter Outings Chair.

## **Remote Alpine and Wilderness Leaders**

Leaders desiring to lead in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or other remote wilderness areas, require specific additional training related to the perils involved with extreme climate and temperature variations from altitude changes, including SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training and one of the following trainings:

- Mountain Leadership School Training
- 16-hour Leadership Training Course

## **Interchapter Excursions**

Member who lists the event will be identified either as an escort (one who arranges the trip and accompanies the participants, who pursue their own activities), or as leader (one who formally leads day events on the trip). Trips with leaders will require SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training and one of the following trainings:

- 16-hour Leadership Training Course
- Mountain Leadership School Training for trips into Remote Alpine Wilderness Areas