

BERKSHIRE CHAPTER, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
• Outings Committee •
LEADER QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES
Revised: 2-8-09

- All existing Leaders are encouraged to meet these Guidelines.
- These Guidelines apply to hiking and backpacking activities under the Outings, Tuesday Hiking, and Young Members Committees.

New Berkshire Chapter Leaders must satisfy the following requirements:

1. a) Successfully complete the AMC Berkshire Chapter Leader Training course, or
b) Successfully complete another Chapter's Leadership Requirements in the desired skill area,
and
2. Successfully co-lead three or more scheduled Chapter trips with at least two different Leaders. The Leaders must certify that the Leader Candidate has met the requirements of each stage of the co-leading process as set forth on the Leader Candidate Evaluation Form (Form).

The training and co-leading process should be completed within one year.

The Leader Candidate (Candidate) must make arrangements with an active Leader to act as a co-leader. The Outings Chair or an Outings Monthly Coordinator can assist with this effort.

The Candidate must take the Form on each of the co-leads. The Candidate and the Leader should discuss the trip. The Leader will record the Candidate's performance on the Form, and give it back to the Candidate to take on their next co-lead.

The Co-Lead Process:

TRIP #1 - CANDIDATE WILL OBSERVE THE GROUP HIKE

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.

TRIP #2 - CANDIDATE TAKES A MORE ACTIVE PART IN TRIP

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.

TRIP #3 - CANDIDATE TAKES FULL CONTROL OF THE GROUP

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.

On completion of an approved Leader Training Course and three co-leads, the Candidate must submit the completed Form to the Outings Chair. The Berkshire Chapter Leader Review Committee will review the Form and will either certify the Candidate as an approved Leader, or will recommend that the Candidate complete more co-leads.

People Who Wish to Become Leaders

A person who is interested in becoming a Leader may co-lead up to three hikes prior to successfully completing an approved Leader Training Course. Only one of these co-leads will qualify toward the three co-lead requirement.

Such a person, who has not completed an approved Leader Training Course:

- must be familiar with the activity.
- may co-lead only on a local day hike.
- cannot be listed as a co-leader on an AMC list-serv, outdoors.org, or *AMC Outdoors* magazine.

Alternate Method of Becoming a Berkshire Chapter Leader

A person who has led hiking or backpacking trips for another AMC chapter, the Sierra Club, or a similar organization may apply to become an approved Berkshire Chapter Leader 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 must have a current SOLO or comparable Wilderness First Aid certificate, and have taken the Berkshire Chapter's Leader Training Course. Advanced Wilderness First Aid and Mountain Leadership School are recommended, but are not required.