



## Single Pitch Award (SPA) Assessment

The Single Pitch Award (SPA) Assessment is the final part in attaining the SPA Award. The assessment takes place over 2 days and looks at all aspects of the syllabus. This is outlined in more detail below.

All assessments carried out by Peak Mountain Training are designed to give you the maximum opportunity to display your skills in an environment that allows you to perform at your best. Assessment is often a stressful process however it should also be an ideal opportunity for you to learn and refine your skills. Regardless of any result, all Peak Mountain Training assessments have a strong emphasis towards ongoing learning.

Our SPA assessment courses take place in the Peak District.

In order to attend a SPA assessment course you must meet the following requirements (tick boxes when completed):

- 1. **Be registered for the SPA with one of the Mountain Leader Training Boards. (see below)**
- 2. Be over the age of 18.
- 3. Have led a minimum of 40 rock climbs, outdoors on leader placed protection, including routes of grade “Severe” or above
- 4. Have attended a SPA training course (your logbook should have the appropriately signed training course report form and training sticker attached) or attained “exemption from training” from the relevant training board.
- 5. Be in possession of an up to date and valid First Aid certificate.
- 6. Have the personal profile (found in your log book) completed and signed.

## Registration

All SPA registrations are administered by the training boards of the 4 home nations: Mountain Leader Training England (MLTE); Scotland (MLTS); Wales (MLTW) & Northern Ireland (MLTNI). It's up to you which training board you register with and, after registration, you will be given a log-book, which contains details of your registration, syllabus and guidance notes along with pages for logging all you experience.

**Please note: If you are attending part of the SPA scheme you must be registered specifically for this award and have the appropriate SPA paperwork - even if you have already registered for one, or more, of the other awards e.g. CWA, WGL or ML.**

If you have any questions regarding registration please do not hesitate to get in touch with us or contact one of the home nation training boards. You can also register online via, for example, the MLTE website, <http://www.mlte.org>

### **Assessment Objectives**

We aim to cover the SPA syllabus in full. Detailed guidance notes on the SPA syllabus should have been provided in the booklet with your logbook. The award Handbooks can also be viewed online via:

[www.mlte.org/content.php?nID=7&catID=43](http://www.mlte.org/content.php?nID=7&catID=43)

### **Single Pitch Award Assessment: Course Format**

This 2 day course focuses on the practical elements of climbing with, and supervising, groups or individuals on single pitch crags and climbing walls. The course will have a strong emphasis on rope work and safe practice. The course will also assess your knowledge in a variety of other syllabus related areas including, but not limited to:

- **Technical Skills**

Equipment; choice and use of anchors; choice and use of rope systems; belaying; abseiling; personal climbing skills; problem solving.

- **Group Supervision**

Hazard awareness; group control; session planning; technique coaching.

- **Background Knowledge**

Access & conservation; history; etiquette; child protection issues

At the end of each day candidates will receive a debrief. This will not entail giving a result for the day. The end result, delivered at the finish of the course, is based on a holistic view of your performance over the two days.

## Sample Programme

Day 1	Day 2
<p>9.00am Welcome &amp; Intro to course</p> <p>9.30am Depart for single pitch crag.</p> <p>Personal Climbing and Abseiling skills; Use of rope systems; problem solving; background knowledge</p> <p>6.00pm Local climbing wall:</p> <p>Group supervision Session planning exercise Climbing/Bouldering activities Review of home paper and discussion</p> <p>8.00pm Finish</p>	<p>9.00am Meet at base or crag</p> <p>Group climbing activities: climbing; abseiling; bouldering; problem solving; background knowledge</p> <p>5.00pm Return to base</p> <p>Results</p> <p>6.00pm Finish</p>

Note: course programme may change to suit prevailing conditions.

### Pre Course Preparation

Prior to the assessment course you will receive a home theory paper. This is a research paper allowing you to show your knowledge in a variety of syllabus related areas. Please bring this with you on the first day of the course or email it to [info@peakmountaintraining.co.uk](mailto:info@peakmountaintraining.co.uk)

### Venues Used

We will pick venues that are appropriate for the assessment objectives of the day and the prevailing weather conditions. Peak Mountain Training instructors are experts at finding the best locations, despite the weather! In all cases we will endeavor to discuss these choices with you so that you are aware of our thought processes.

### Meeting Point

**Please meet at 0845 at Edale Mountain Rescue Team HQ on the starting date of your course.** Parking is limited so please car share if at all possible.

Directions – Edale MRT is based at the Lafarge Cement Works (yes, the huge chimney visible from anywhere in the Hope valley!). From the A6187 in Hope

take Pindale Road (opposite the Spar shop). The cement works entrance is approximately 1km on the left. There is a car park on the left as you enter the site and the MRT base is in the unit opposite. Please observe parking instructions.

### **What do I need to bring?**

As an aspiring Single Pitch Award holder we expect you to bring all the equipment you need to run climbing and abseiling sessions. Make sure all your kit is in good working order as we won't allow you to use anything that we think is unfit for the purpose.

### **Accommodation/Food**

Accommodation/Food is not included in the course price. If you do not live locally a central location on the eastern side of the Peak District is ideal for our courses e.g, Hope or Hathersage.

We recommend the Woodbine Café and B&B in particular, but please note that Judith will only accept bookings of two nights at the weekend as do most B&B's in the valley. Tel: 07778 113882 or <http://www.woodbine-hope.co.uk/>  
This is close to our course base in Hope.

Further details of Peak District accommodation can be found at <http://www.jamesthacker.co.uk/accommodationpeak.htm> and <http://www.peakdistrictonline.com>

### **Cancellation**

SPA assessment courses must have a minimum of 2 candidates. In the event of course cancellation due to lack of participants, contact will be made no later than 14 days prior to the course start date. If this situation does occur then an alternative date will be given or a full refund made.

### **What happens now?**

We will look forward to meeting you on the first day of your course. However, in the mean time if you have any queries or require further advice please feel free to contact us.