



Summer Mountain Leader Award (ML) Assessment

The Mountain Leader Award assessment is the final part of the summer mountain leader scheme. The assessment takes place over 5 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 on ongoing learning.

Our Mountain Leader assessment courses take place in the Peak District and North Wales.

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

- 1. **Be registered for the Mountain Leader scheme with Mountain Training. (See below)**
- 2. Be over the age of 18.
- 3. Have logged a **minimum** of 40 quality mountain walking days.
- 4. Have attended a Mountain Leader training course or successfully applied for 'exemption from training' with Mountain Training directly.
- 5. Be in possession of an up to date and valid First Aid certificate.

Registration

All Mountain Leader registrations are administered by Mountain Training. At this, the assessment stage, you should already be registered and have an up to date and fully completed log-book containing details of your registration, training course and logged mountain walks. You should have read the syllabus and guidance notes for the Mountain Leader scheme.

Please note: If you are attending any part of the Mountain Leader scheme you must be registered specifically for this award - even if you have already registered for one, or more, of the other awards e.g. Climbing Wall Award, Single Pitch Award or Hill and Moorland Leader.

Register now via Mountain Training: <http://www.mountain-training.org>

Assessment Objectives

We aim to cover the Mountain Leader syllabus in full. Detailed guidance notes on the Mountain Leader syllabus along with the award handbook are available online via:

<http://www.mountain-training.org/walking/skills-and-awards/mountain-leader>

Course Format

The assessment is almost entirely practical although there are a couple of short theory exercises.

The assessment will have a strong emphasis on navigation and leadership through both moorland and mountainous terrain. The course will also assess your knowledge in many other syllabus areas including, but not limited to:

- Remit of the Award
- Leadership skills and styles
- Route planning
- Environmental awareness
- Camping and expedition skills
- Emergency procedures including rope work
- Common hill incidents and emergency procedures

The assessment process takes a holistic view of your performance over the week. It is rare that a single error causes someone to be deferred, and a pass is the result based on your performance taking into account errors you made along the way. The assessor's job is to create as many opportunities for you to show your skills in a realistic environment. Your job is simple - to show the assessor that you can carry out the normal things that a mountain leader would be expected to do.

Sample Course Outline: in the Peak meet at 08:45:
Unit 2a-3a Hathersage Park, Hathersage, Derbyshire, S32 1DP

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Hill Day	Hill Day	Expedition	Expedition	Expedition
Intro: Us, you and the course	Hazard awareness; Emergency Ropework;	Navigation; Leadership.	Navigation; Leadership; Group Management.	Further assessment as required; Completion of the exped.
Navigation; general leadership.	Leader's rucksack.	Camping Skills	Steep/difficult terrain	Debrief and results
Evening Session: Planning Exercise	Evening Session: Expedition preparation	Night Navigation Camp	Night Navigation Camp	Finish by 5pm

Note1: 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 which we hope will help you prepare for and focus towards the assessment as well as developing your knowledge in a variety of syllabus related areas. Please bring this with you on the first day of the course.

Venues Used

The first part of the week will be based in the Peak District. The expedition phase will be in North Wales. The assessment will take place whatever the weather, so make sure you're well prepared!

We will pick venues that are appropriate for the assessment objectives of the day and the prevailing weather conditions. In many cases you will have the opportunity to contribute to these decisions and we will endeavour to discuss any choices with you so that you are aware of our thought processes. Candidates often believe that a degree of 'local knowledge' is advantageous. The Mountain Leader award caters for leaders who can operate without prior intimate knowledge of an area and our assessments reflect that – so don't worry if you are not particularly familiar with the venues chosen, many candidates actually perform better in unfamiliar terrain.

Meeting Point:

Please meet at 08.45am on the first day of the course at the following address:

**Unit 2a-3a Hathersage Park
Hathersage
Derbyshire
S32 1DP**

The units are opposite Hathersage railway station.

What do I need to bring?

As an aspiring Mountain Leader we expect you to bring all equipment required to operate as a mountain leader on both day walks and the expedition. Your choice of equipment will be assessed during the week. This should also include maps suitable for the areas we are working in.

Candidates will need the following maps:

The Peak District Dark Peak Area 1:25,000 (OL1) and 1:50,000;
1:25,000 Snowdon / Yr Wyddfa Sheet (OL17) and 1:50,000

Please bring other maps or map scales of the areas if you have them.

Accommodation/Food

Please note that the course price does not include accommodation or food.

Day 1: Accommodation will be required in the Peak.

Given the lengthy nature of the days, we suggest staying in or close to Hathersage.

Details of Peak District accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.peakdistrictonline.com>

Day 2: Accommodation will be required either in the Peak, Llanberis or somewhere half way. We usually meet at Pete's Eats in Llanberis for 9am at the beginning of Day 3.

In Snowdonia the following options, in Llanberis, are convenient:

[Pete's Eats Bunkhouse](#) (recommended)
[Ben's Bunkhouse](#)

Further details of North Wales accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.walestouristsonline.co.uk/nwcoast/>

Cancellation

ML assessment courses must have a minimum of 4 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.