



Summer Mountain Leader Award (ML) Assessment (SPLIT)

The Mountain Leader Award assessment is the final part of the mountain leader scheme. Our split assessment takes place over a 2-day and 3-day block 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 an Mountain Leader assessment course you must meet the following requirements (tick boxes when completed):

- 1. **Be registered for the Mountain Leader with Mountain Training (see below).**
- 2. Be over the age of 18.
- 3. Have 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 & Moor Land 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 ML 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:

Part One: Peak District Meet at: 08:45:

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

Day 1	Day 2
Intro Hill Day	Hill Day
Intro: Us, you, the course; Navigation; general leadership	Hazard awareness; emergency ropework; leaders rucksack
Evening Sessions: Planning Exercise	Expedition preparation Finish by 7pm

Part Two: Snowdonia

Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Expedition	Expedition	Expedition
Navigation; Leadership; Camping Skills	Navigation; Leadership; Group management in steep/difficult terrain	Further assessment as required; Completion of the exped. Debrief and results
Night Navigation Camp	Night Navigation Camp	Finish by 5pm

Note1: course programme may change to suit prevailing conditions.

Venues Used

The first part of the assessment 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 Points (occasionally subject to change so please check emails)

Part One: 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.

Part Two:

Will be confirmed during part one but is normally for 9am at Pete's Eats, LLanberis at the start of the expedition phase.

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.

Part One: Accommodation will be required in the Peak on the evening of Day 1.

We suggest staying in or close to Hathersage.

Further details of Peak District accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.peakdistrictonline.com>

Part Two:

No accommodation is required during the expedition part of the assessment although we recommend you are based close to Llanberis for the night prior to 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.