



Single Pitch Award (SPA) Assessment

The Single Pitch Award Assessment is the final part in attaining the Single Pitch 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 on-going learning.

Our Single Pitch Award assessment courses take place in the Peak District.

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

- 1. **Be registered for the Single Pitch Award scheme with Mountain Training (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 Single Pitch Award 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 Single Pitch Award 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 climbs. You should have read the syllabus and guidance notes for the Single Pitch Award scheme.

Please note: If you are attending any part of the Single Pitch Award 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, Hill & Moorland Leader or Mountain Leader.

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

Assessment Objectives

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

<http://www.mountain-training.org/climbing/awards/single-pitch-award>

You should make yourself familiar with the syllabus and guidance notes as they also offer candidates an insight into the training and assessment process as well as the role of trainers and assessors.

Course Format

This two-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 normally have a short review of their day with their assessor, although results are only made on consideration of a complete performance over both days.

Sample Programme: Meet 08:45:
 Unit 2a-3a Hathersage Park, Hathersage, Derbyshire, S32 1DP

Day 1	Day 2
Base/ Crag	Base/ Crag
Welcome & Intro to course Personal Climbing and Abseiling skills; Use of rope systems; problem solving; background knowledge	9.00am Meet at base or crag Group climbing activities: climbing; abseiling; bouldering; problem solving; background knowledge
Local climbing wall	Base
Group supervision Session planning exercise Climbing/Bouldering activities Finish by 8pm	Results Finish by 5pm

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 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 complete and bring this with you on the first day of the course.

Venues Used

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. This is true to a certain extent but the Single Pitch Award caters for leaders who can operate without prior intimate knowledge of an area, crag or route and our assessments reflect that – so don't worry if the Peak District is not your local area. Many candidates actually perform better on unfamiliar crags.

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 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.

Cancellation

Single Pitch Award 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.