

Steps to becoming a hike leader:

1. **Recommendations:**
 - **Day Hikes:** Complete at least three day hikes with the Mountaineers within the past year. One of these hikes should be with the Tacoma Branch.
 - **Low Impact Recreation:** Complete the Low Impact Recreation Online Course.
2. **Prerequisites (Complete in Any Order):**
 - **New Hike & Backpack Leader Seminar:** Attend this seminar—from any branch.
 - **Online Application:** Submit your [Hike Leader Application](#) online. Be sure to specify Tacoma Branch. You should receive confirmation of your application within a few days.
 - **First Aid Training:** Complete either Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or Medical First Aid (MOFA). Trail Emergency Preparedness is acceptable providing you complete either WFA or MOFA within one year.
 - **Navigation Training:** Complete either the Wilderness (off-trail) Navigation or Staying Found (on-trail) navigation course.
3. **Mentored Hike:**
 - **Mentored Hike:** The committee will approve a mentor, and then your final step is to successfully lead a mentored hike. The committee will then approve your Hike Leader Badge.

Steps to becoming a backpack leader:

1. **Recommendations**
 - **Backpack Trips:** Complete one backpack trip with the Mountaineers.
2. **Prerequisites (Complete in Any Order):**
 - **Lead two day hikes:** Become a hike leader and lead two day hikes.
 - **Backpack Skills:** Earn a Basic Backpack Skills Badge.
 - **Online Application:** Submit your online [Backpack Leader Application](#). You should receive confirmation of your application within a few days.
 - **Assistant Lead:** Be an Assistant Lead on one Tacoma Branch backpack trip. Similar Mountaineer overnight trips from other committees may be accepted.
3. **Mentored Backpack:**
 - **Mentored Backpack:** The committee will approve a mentor, and then your final step is to successfully lead a mentored backpack. The committee will then approve your Backpack Leader Badge.

Additional Hike & Backpack Leader Information

- **Urban Walk Leader Badge**
 - The Tacoma Branch does not currently offer the Urban Walk Leader Badge. If you're interested in becoming an Urban Walk Leader, please complete a separate application to a different branch.

- **To Maintain your Hike and/or Backpack Leader Badge:**
 - Hike leaders must lead at least two trips per year.
 - Backpack leaders must lead any combination of the following per year:
 - a. Two overnight trips OR
 - b. One day hike and one overnight backpack trip OR
 - c. One multi-night backpack trip.
 - Be in adequate physical and mental condition to properly lead each hike or backpack scheduled.
 - Meet and follow the Minimum Club-wide Standards for Hiking and Backpacking as outlined on the Mountaineers website.
- **Reimbursement of Expenses:**
 - The Committee will reimburse 50% of WFA or MOFA course for New Hike Leaders. To qualify, you must lead 3 hikes within 12 months of becoming a leader.
 - The Committee will reimburse 50% of WFA or MOFA course recertification for Existing Hike Leaders. To qualify, you must be a Prior Year Key Leader or Super Volunteer. These badges are earned for leading a determined number of trips or volunteering a determined number of hours by The Mountaineers.
 - Please email reimbursement requests to any of the committee co-chairs.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a hike or backpack leader for Tacoma!

Updated April 29, 2024