

Mountaineers Tacoma Branch

Hiking and Backpacking Committee Routes to Leadership

	Hiking		Backpacking	
	New Mountaineers Leader Path	Active Mountaineers Leader Path ¹	New Mountaineers Leader Path	Active Mountaineers Leader Path ¹
Recommended Trip Experience	3 day hikes within the past year	1 day hike within the past year	At least one prior Mountaineers backpack ²	At least one prior Mountaineers backpack preferred but other activities may also substitute ² (e.g. overnight scrambles, overnight climbs, winter camping, overnight kayaking, bikepacking, etc.)
Recommended Other Relevant Experience	N/A	Active in the last 6 months to a year as primary leader in another activity	Hike Leader + Lead at least two day hikes as primary leader prior to mentored backpack	Active in the last 6 months to a year as primary leader in another activity
Hike/Backpack Leader Seminar (any branch)	x	x	x	x
Hike/Backpack Leader Application	x	x	x	x
Current Wilderness First Aid (WFA)/Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA)	x ³	x ³	x	x
Current Wilderness (Off-trail) Navigation, On-Trail Navigation, or Staying Found	x	x	x	x
Low Impact Recreation Badge (Recommended)	x	x	x	x
Prerequisite Skills Badge	None	None	Basic Backpacking Skills	Basic Backpacking Skills
Conversation with Committee Member	x	x	x	x
Assistant Lead Requirements	N/A	N/A	Assistant lead at least one backpack trip prior to mentored backpack	Assistant lead at least one backpack trip prior to mentored backpack OR Prior experience that adequately demonstrates outdoor leadership skills on overnight trips
Mentored Trip	x	x	x	x
Committee Approval	x	x	x	x

¹Applicant holds a leader badge in another activity

²Assistant leader experience may substitute to fulfill this requirement

³Trail Emergency Preparedness is acceptable provided you complete either WFA or MOFA within one year

	Hiking	Backpacking
Annual Leader Requirements (Oct 1-Sept 30)	Primary or co-lead 2 day hikes	Primary or co-lead (pick one): 1 day hike and 1 overnight backpack OR 2 overnight backpacks OR 1 multi-night backpack
	Be in adequate physical and mental condition to properly lead each hike scheduled	Be in adequate physical and mental condition to properly lead each backpack scheduled
	Meet and follow the Minimum Club-Wide Standards for Day Hikes as outlined on the Mountaineers website	Meet and follow the Minimum Club-Wide Standards for Backpacking as outlined on the Mountaineers website

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Urban Walks Leader Badge - The Tacoma Branch does not currently offer this badge. If you're interested in becoming an Urban Walks Leader, please complete a separate application to either the Foothills or Seattle Branch.

Reimbursement of Expenses:

*The Committee will reimburse 50% of WFA or MOFA for New Hike Leaders. To qualify, you must lead 3 hikes within 12 months of becoming a hike leader.

*The Committee will reimburse 50% of WFA or MOFA recertification for exiting hike leaders. To qualify, you must be a prior year Key Leader or Super Volunteer. These budgets 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.

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