



## Mountain Leader Award Overview

**Before registration, candidates must be able to answer yes to the following questions:**

- Are you at least 18 years old?
- Are you a member of Mountaineering Ireland?
- Have you passed the Mountain Skills Assessment?

### Registration and Log Book

Once you have satisfied the above, register with Mountaineering Ireland for the ML Award. A logbook will be sent out to you. This logbook is a vital link between the candidate, Mountaineering Ireland, and the training provider and provides a clear record of candidates' mountaineering experience and activity, their fulfilment of the requirements of the scheme, and course attendance. The logbook must be kept up-to-date and be submitted when booking places on courses. The training/assessment course director will monitor the logbooks on behalf of Mountaineering Ireland. Once you have registered and received your log book, you can book a training course directly with one of our approved providers.

### Training

A Mountain Leader training course consists of five days, typically divided into 2 blocks, Mountain Leader 1 (2 days) and Mountain Leader 2 (3 days). Some Providers may run the training back to back over 5 days in one week. Training comprises both indoor lectures/discussions and a multi-day expedition, including some night navigation exercises. Topics covered on the ML training syllabus will include: party leadership and group management, navigation, walking skills and personal equipment, campcraft, security on steep ground, emergency rope work, mountain hazards and emergency procedures, weather, access and conservation. The ratio for ML training is 1 instructor to 4 candidates.

### Consolidation

During the period between registration and assessment, candidates are required to log broad personal hillwalking experience in a variety of Irish mountain areas, practising a variety of navigational techniques. The following criteria must be fulfilled as a minimum:

- Record at least 20 quality mountain days
- Organise a two-day hillwalking trip for a group in consultation with an ML holder
- Gain experience progressively of leading parties over varied routes in Ireland, which must include at least 6 days leadership experience
- Spend at least 6 days assisting one or more MLs (or higher award holders), 2 days of which must be on BOS-recognised courses such as Mountain Skills
- Camp in two different non-roadside locations in the hills in winter

### Assessment

When you are ready for assessment, visit our course calendar to see when assessments are being held and send an assessment booking form with your booking fee to the MI training office.

ML Assessment takes places over 3 days, with a minimum of 1 night camping. Candidates will be tested in practical aspects of the syllabus by BOS-approved assessors. The ratio for ML assessment is 1 instructor to 4 candidates

A written test will also be given in advance of the assessment course. This test will be related to subjects such as access and conservation, mountain weather and equipment, and background knowledge. They will not determine the final result but will aid the assessors when considering the choice of tasks to be set in the course.

### What next?

Once you have registered, contact one of our approved providers directly for more information, costs and to start your ML training. ML training is held around the country on a regular basis. Visit our course calendar to see when and where courses are running. Please note that courses are priced by the individual provider.