

ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR SCHEME

PROSPECTUS

**South African Mountaineering
Development and Training Programme**

Mountain Training Scheme



Only trainers and assessors approved and accredited by the South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust (MDT) may provide training and assessment that will lead to MDT accreditation.

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Foreword

The South African Mountaineering Development and Training Programme (MDT), was established to develop and maintain nationally recognised standards for the many clubs, organisations and individuals active in mountain related activities.

The programme, controlled by the South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust, a legally constituted body registered with the master of the Supreme Court, co-ordinates and administers the functioning of the national Mountain Training Scheme (MTS).

Introduced in 1996, the MTS comprises of eight partially independent schemes, each integrating practical, theoretical and experiential components through a process of training and assessment. From the Basic Mountain Walking Leader Scheme to the Mountaineering Instructor Scheme, each is primarily concerned with good practice, leading to the safe enjoyment of the activity.

Training and assessment courses are run by individuals approved and accredited by the trust.

Since its introduction, the programme has gained the support of the many professional, semi-professional and voluntary guides, leaders and instructors active in South Africa's mountains.

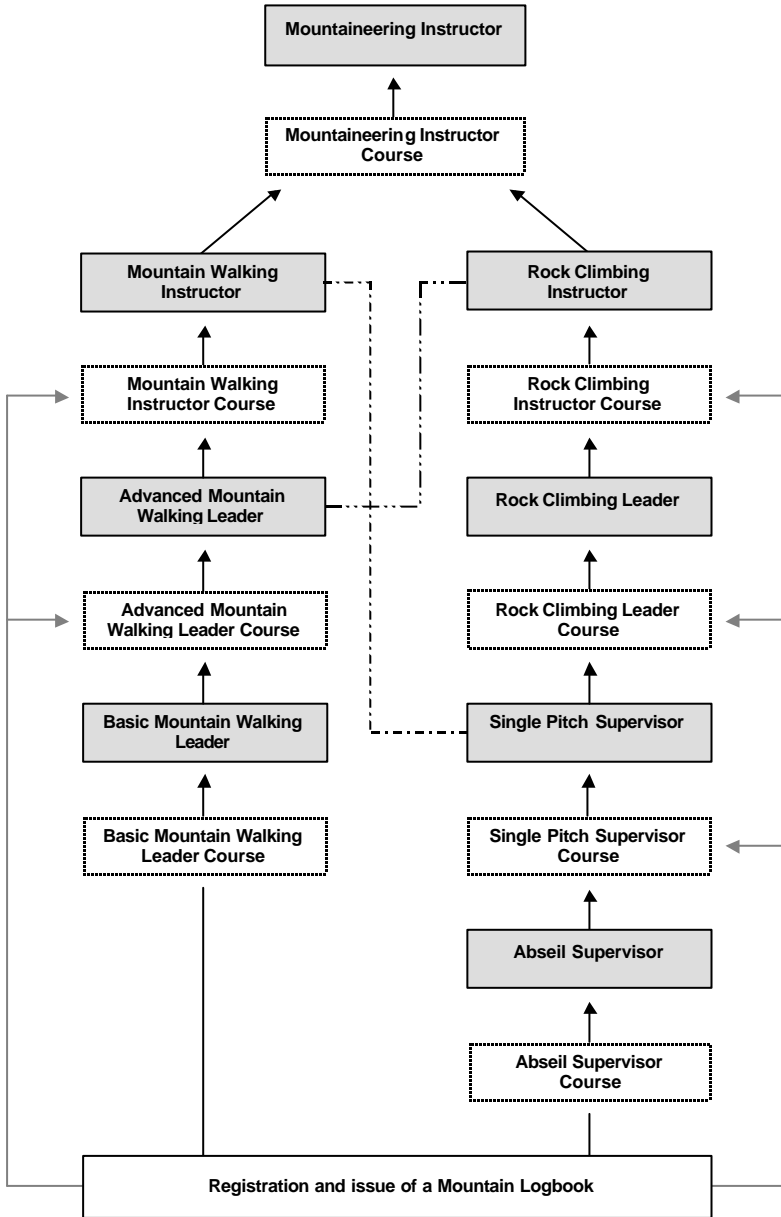
An overview of the Mountain Training Scheme is provided on the next page.

Information on the components of the MDT programme, how to register, or where to go for training and assessment courses can be obtained from:

Administration
MDT
PO Box 662
Gillitts
3603
South Africa

Email: admin@mdt.za.org
Website: www.mdt.za.org

The Mountain Training Scheme



Rock Climbing Instructor Scheme Prospectus

Introduction

The Rock Climbing Instructor Scheme provides comprehensive training and assessment for individuals working as instructors in a professional, semi-professional or voluntary capacity, privately or at mountaineering centres. It integrates training and assessment in a variety of testing conditions in mountainous country.

The scheme provides training and assessment in the skills required to teach, and assess rock climbing and to lead groups in all the mountain areas of South Africa.

Stages

The scheme comprises of:

1. registration and issue of a log book;
 2. a six day training course;
 3. further experience gained during a consolidation period;
 4. a four day assessment course;
 5. continuing experience entered in a logbook.
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Registration

The candidate wishing to register must:

- be not less than twenty one years of age;
- have at least thirty six months of extensive personal experience of rock climbing in a variety of areas;
- have led or alternate-led a minimum of thirty named multi-pitch climbs of seventeen standard or above in at least three climbing areas¹;
- identify a suitable referee to endorse the registration application, preferably a mountaineering instructor or guide, but other long term climbing partners or suitable employer will be considered;

- complete the registration application and enclose the appropriate fee. This should be submitted to the MDT via an approved course provider.

Course Providers are given a period of 14 days from the date of completion of the course, to submit the registration details of their course attendees. The MDT administration then has a further 14 days to process these registrations, and to supply you with your registration number as recorded on the MDT database

Please feel free to contact the MDT administration at any time to check up on your registration. You should receive an e-mail/sms/phone call confirming receipt of your registration form once the MDT administration has received it. If you do not receive such confirmation, you may contact the MDT administration, who will contact the service provider immediately should the registration details not yet have been submitted.

The purpose of this is to ensure speedy registration, leading to satisfied MDT members. Please be assured of our commitment to aid you in this process.

Training

The candidate must attend a six-day training course run by an approved course provider³.

On completion of training, the Director of Training will endorse the appropriate page(s) in the logbook.

Logbook

Experience gained by the candidate should be recorded in the MDT Mountain Logbook. Entries should be concise and easily read, providing a complete record of the candidate's experience.

The logbook is divided into five sections and includes:

- a record of experience gained prior to the training course;

- the particulars of the training course, completed by the Director of Training;
 - a record of experience gained during the period between the training and assessment courses;
 - the particulars of the assessment course, completed by the Director of Assessment;
 - a record of experience gained after the assessment.
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Consolidation

During the period between training and assessment courses, the candidate is expected to evaluate and consolidate the techniques shown during training and gain extensive personal experience of rock climbing, leadership and instruction in a variety of testing conditions.

Experience gained abroad, while valuable is not a substitute for specific experience gained in South Africa.

The consolidation period will be a minimum of twelve months.

First Aid

At the start of the assessment course the candidate must hold a currently valid approved first aid certificate.

Assessment

Before attending an assessment course the candidate must:

- have completed twenty rock climbing teaching days with students;
- have led or alternate-led a further thirty named multi-pitch climbs of seventeen standard or above in at least three climbing areas;
- be familiar with all aspects of the syllabus;
- have gained a broad working knowledge of rock climbing including the crag and mountain environment and South African rock climbing history;
- have obtained a reference from a referee;
- hold the Advanced Mountain Walking Leader Certificate;
- hold a valid approved first aid certificate.

The candidate will be expected to present a logbook and first aid certificate to the Director of Assessment, to confirm that the requirements of the scheme have been met.

During the assessment course, which lasts a minimum of four days, the candidate will be tested in accordance with the syllabus requirements⁴.

The Director of Assessment will endorse the logbook in one of three ways:

Pass

Awarded where the candidate has demonstrated proper knowledge and application of the course syllabus and has shown the necessary experience for the application of abseil supervision.

Deferred

Awarded where the candidate has generally performed at the required standard and shown the necessary experience and attributes, but where complete proficiency has not been

attained. Written recommendations for further experience will be given, along with details of the proposed one-day reassessment.

Recommended Reassessment

Awarded where the candidate's performance has been weak, or the necessary experience and attributes have not been shown.

A panel of at least two assessors will be involved in deciding each candidate's result.

Reassessment

The candidate cannot be reassessed for more than one day of the four-day assessment course. This must follow a minimum period of three months. The candidate may only take two reassessments before being required to take the entire course again. Since the reassessment will be based on information gained during the assessment all reassessments must be completed within a five-year period.

Exemption

Exemption from the consolidation period is possible for the candidate who can demonstrate substantial experience prior to registration. It must be stressed that the consolidation period is an essential part of the preparation for assessment, enabling the candidate to personally evaluate the techniques demonstrated during training.

Exemption from stages two and three will only be gained in exceptional cases.

Applications for exemption must be made in writing to the secretary of the Assessment Panel.

Rock Climbing Instructor Scheme

Notes

1. A large proportion of these routes should be on mountain crags.
 2. The MDT Administrator, on receiving the registration application and registration fee, will issue a receipt as proof that registration has been successful.
 3. A list of approved course providers is available from the MDT.
 4. During several days of the assessment candidates may climbing at this grade. Experience of leading harder routes is extremely valuable.
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Scope

It is the duty of the employer or operating authority to decide whether a leader or instructor possesses the personal attributes needed to take responsibility for a group of people. It is the combination of technical skills, wide experience and personal qualities, which forms the basis for effective group management. The scheme assesses the technical skills and experience, the employer or operating authority must gauge personal qualities.

Experience

Candidates often experience some difficulty when compiling their registration forms and logbooks, in trying to determine whether or not they meet the experience requirements of the Scheme.

The Director of Assessment and the Assessment Panel are looking for both depth and breadth of experience since the candidate who only has the minimum experience is unlikely to benefit from either training or assessment courses.

The Mountain Training Scheme is South Africa oriented, therefore the experience recorded should reflect this. Whilst experience gained abroad is undoubtedly valuable it is not necessarily the most appropriate.

Rock Climbing Instructor Scheme Acknowledgements

1. **South African Mountaineering Development and Training Programme**
Technical Committee.
2. **Mountain Club of South Africa. National Training Sub-committee (1994)**
Mountain Leadership Training Scheme. Proposed Policy and Guidelines a Consultative Document.
3. **Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme**
Working Group Training Standards
Model Training Standards for voluntary Leaders and Instructors.
4. **Mountain Leader Training Board (UK)**
Mountain Instructor Scheme Prospectus and Syllabus.
5. **United Kingdom Mountain Training Board (1994)**
Mountain Instructor Scheme Prospectus and Syllabus.
6. **United Kingdom Mountain Training Board (1995)**
National Guidelines.

Rock Climbing Instructor Scheme Documentation

Compiled by Euan Waugh

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