

BASIC MOUNTAIN WALKING LEADER 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.

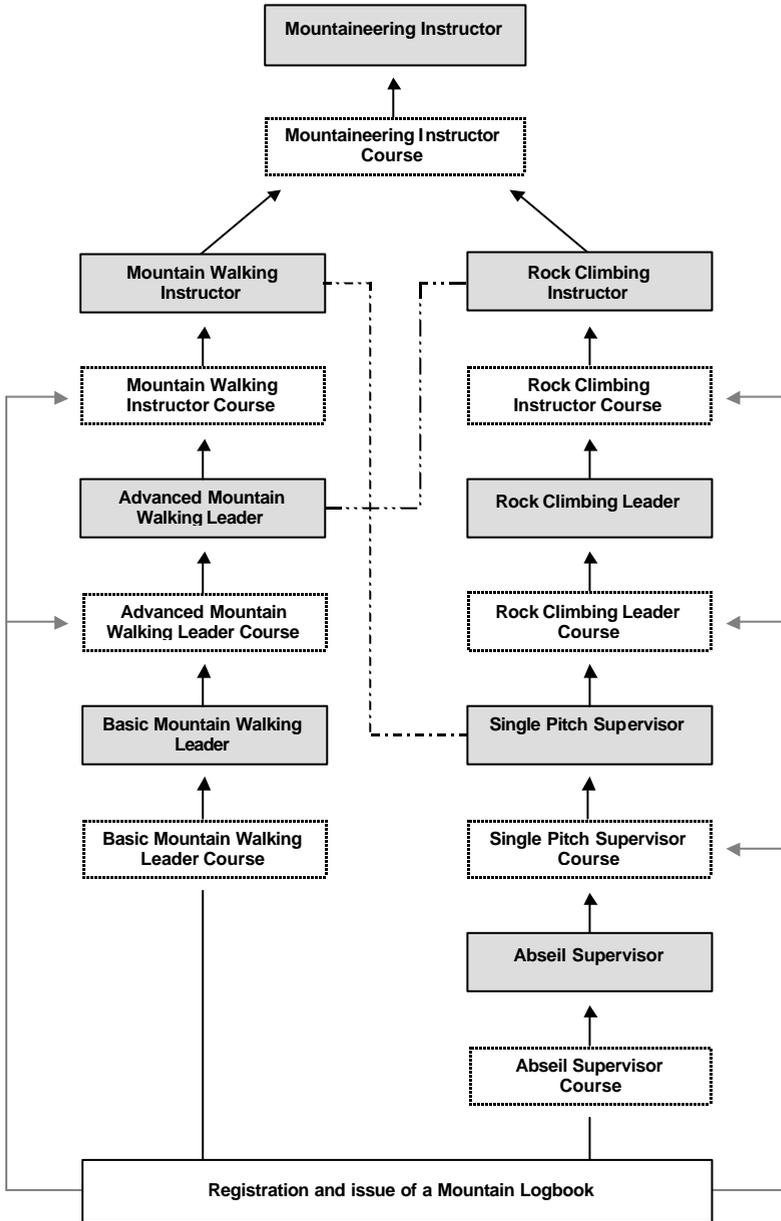
An overview of the Mountain Training Scheme is provided on the next page.

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



Basic Mountain Walking Leader Scheme Prospectus

Introduction

The Basic Mountain Walking Leader Scheme provides comprehensive training and assessment in the technical and group management skills required by those who wish to lead groups only on clearly defined paths and trails in easy to moderate mountain country.

Scope

The scheme offers the candidate the opportunity to gain technical competence in leading walkers, it does not provide a climbing qualification.

Completion of a training course alone, without taking and assessment course, is not a qualification in itself, although it may be of considerable benefit to the trainee.

Stages

The Scheme comprises of:

1. registration and issue of a logbook;
 2. a four day training course;
 3. further experience gained during a consolidation period;
 4. a three 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 eighteen years of age;
- have a genuine interest in mountain walking and group leadership;
- have at least twelve months experience of mountain walking and lightweight camping;
- 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 four-day training course run by an approved course provider².

The training course is for potential leaders and assumes basic competence as a mountain walker. It emphasises those skills, which the candidate might have difficulty in learning without guidance.

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 gain extensive experience in mountain areas. This must include some practice in leading parties in easy mountain country and working under the guidance of a suitably experienced leader, more difficult and remote mountain country³.

Experience gained in other mountain activities is useful but not a pre-requisite. Experience gained in other countries, while valuable is not a substitute for specific experience gained in South Africa. The candidate should therefore have substantial experience of South African mountains.

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 twelve quality days in mountainous country;
- have completed six nights in huts or tents in different locations;
- have completed three established trails of at least three days duration;
- have walked in three different regions;
- be familiar with all aspects of the syllabus;

- have obtained a personal profile submitted by a referee;
- hold a currently 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 three days, the candidate will be tested in accordance with the syllabus requirements.

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.

Reassessment

The candidate cannot be reassessed for more than one day of the three-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.

Basic Mountain Walking Leader Scheme

Notes

1. The MDT Administrator, on receiving the registration application and registration fee, will issue a receipt as proof that registration has been successful.
 2. A list of approved course providers is available from the MDT Administrator.
 3. Ideally, the candidate should be under the direction of an AML, or higher award holder.
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Scope

It is the duty of the employer or operating authority to decide whether a leader 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 form 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, experience recorded should reflect this. Whilst experience gained abroad is undoubtedly valuable it is not necessarily the most appropriate.

Quality Days

A quality mountain day should contain elements of planning, exploration and navigation; they should be strenuous and reasonably demanding; ideally on unfamiliar terrain which will necessitate the use of a map and perhaps most importantly, the end result will give a sense of achievement, satisfaction and enjoyment.

Basic Mountain Walking Leader 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)**
Mountainwalking Leader Training Scheme Prospectus and Syllabus.
5. **United Kingdom Mountain Training Board (1995)**
National Guidelines

Basic Mountain Walking Leader Scheme Documentation

Compiled by Euan Waugh

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