



PROSPECTUS

**South African Mountaineering
Development and Training Trust**

Mountain Skills Training Program

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FOREWORD

The South African Mountaineering Development and Training Program (MDT), was established in 1994 to develop and maintain nationally recognised standards for the many clubs, organisations and individuals active in mountain related activities.

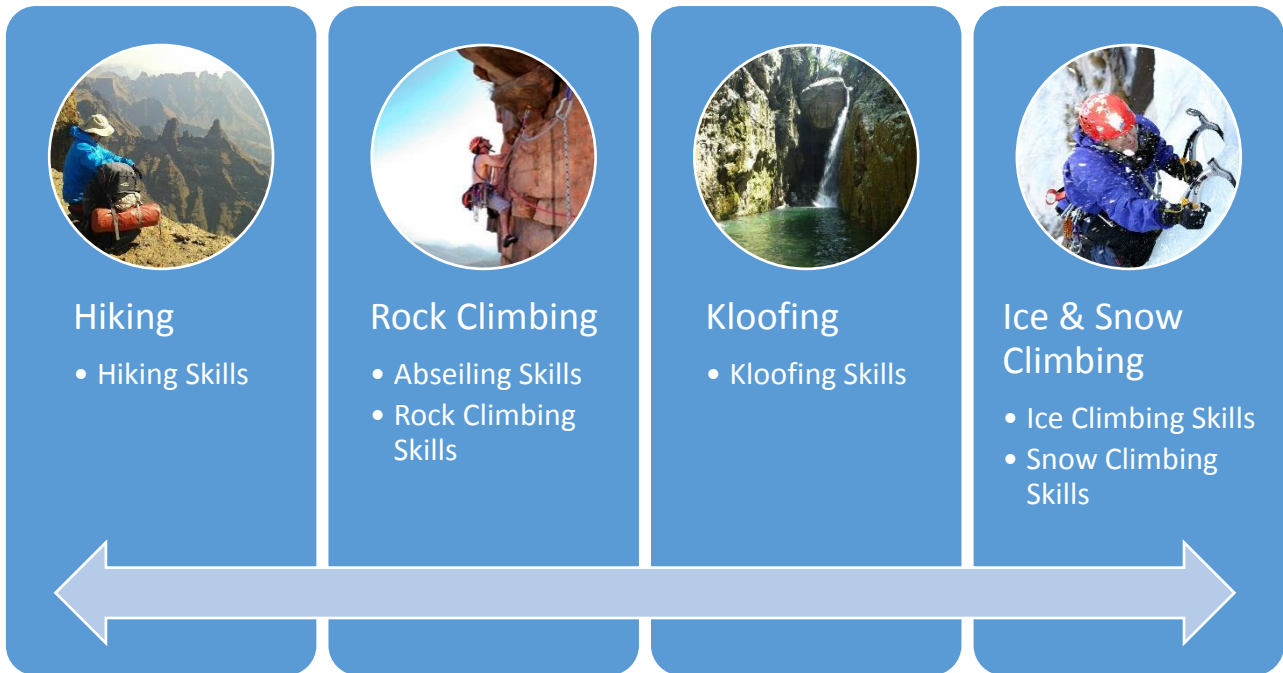
The program, managed by the South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust, a legally constituted body registered with the master of the Supreme Court, coordinates and administers the functioning of the National Training Program.

Training and or assessment courses are run by Service Providers approved and accredited by the National Management Committee.

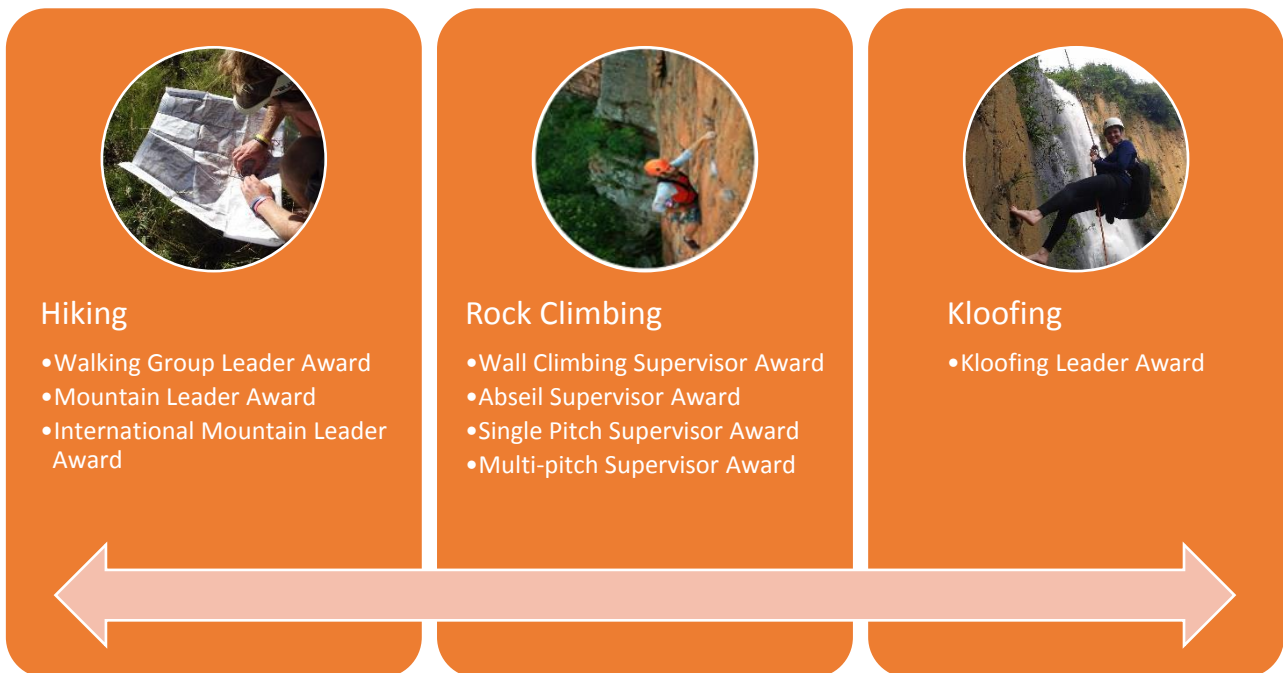
Since its introduction, the program has gained the support of the many professional, semi-professional and voluntary guides, leaders and instructors active in South Africa's mountains as well as the World Mountaineering Federation (UIAA).

MOUNTAIN TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Skills Training Program



Leadership training program



Instructor program



Hiking

- Mountain Leader Instructor



Rock Climbing

- Rock Climbing Instructor



Kloofing

- Kloofing Instructor



SKILLS PROGRAM PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

The skills program is primarily concerned with good personal recreational practice, focused on the safe enjoyment of the activity. The program does not include leadership skills nor is it intended as a leader training program.

There is no assessment included in this section of the MDT program, and as such no certification will occur at these levels.

Participation in these courses will be logged in the candidates' logbook by the Course Provider and the MDT Administration will issue a MDT registration number.

Some of these courses, as indicated, are recommended as feeder courses for the Leadership Training Program.

SKILLS COURSES

The skills program provides training in six unassessed courses for those who wish to partake personally in a recreational context in these activities. They are suitable for individuals who have no or little prior experience of the activity and are aimed at recreational participation only.

SKILLS TRAINING COURSES

Course	Duration	Minimum Age	Minimum Instructor Qualification
Hiking Skills	3 days	14	MLI
Abseiling Skills	1½ days	14	RCI
Rock Climbing Skills	2 days	14	RCI
RCS: Sport Leading Endorsement	1 day	14	RCI
Ice Climbing Skills	3 days	16	MIA
Snow Climbing Skills	3 days	16	MIA
Kloofing Skills	3 days	16	KIA

Hiking Skills

(Feeder course for the Mountain Leader Award)

The Hiking Skills is a personal/recreational skills training course, which provides training for those who wish to learn to hike on trails or on very easy off trail areas.

Duration: 3 days

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Packing
- On-trail navigation and map reading
- Nutrition
- Camp craft
- Elementary weather
- Common hazard avoidance
- Basic Emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

The course does not cover:

- Expedition skills
- Off-trail & restricted visibility navigation
- Improvised rescue
- Steep terrain
- River crossings
- The supervision or leadership of other hikers

Abseiling Skills

(Feeder course for the Abseil Supervisor Award)

The Abseiling Skills course is a personal/recreational skills training course which provides training for those who wish to learn to abseil safely without an independent belay.

Duration: 1½ days

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Natural features and in situ anchors
- Setting up a fixed line and retrievable abseil
- Preparing to abseil
- Abseiling and protecting against loss of control
- Basic problem solving
- Basic emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

The course does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Access to any location where escape is not easily possible from the top and the bottom of the abseil site
- Releasable abseils
- Multiple abseils, or abseils that involve intermediate stances
- The supervision or leadership of other abseilers
- Abseiling in a kloofing context

Rock Climbing Skills

(Feeder course for Single Pitch Supervisor Award)

The Rock Climbing Skills Course is an introductory personal/recreational training course, which provides training for those who wish to be introduced to the sport of rock climbing. The course introduces both seconding Traditional and Sport climbing on the first day and Sport climbing leading and/or further Traditional climbing seconding skills (each taught as a separate day) in a single pitch environment.

Duration: 2–3 days

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
 - Seconding of Traditional and Sport climbs (single pitch)
 - Types of climbing activities
 - Terminology and communication in climbing
 - Anchors, knots and tying in
 - Movement on rock
 - Belay skills
 - Personal abseiling
 - Solving common problems
 - Emergency procedures
 - MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- And either of the following:
- Leading single-pitch sport climbs
 - Further trad seconding skills

The course does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Access to any location where escape is not easily possible from the top and the bottom of the climbing site
- Improvised rescue skills
- The supervision or leadership of other climbers
- Multi pitch climbing skills
- Abseiling from multi pitch routes

Ice Climbing Skills

(Feeder Course for Mountaineering Instructor)

The Ice Climbing Skills Course is a personal/recreational skills training course, providing training for those who wish to learn to climb single and multi pitch water-ice routes.

Duration: 3 days

Pre-requisite experience: Attendees are required to demonstrate experience of the concepts covered in the Rock Climbing Skills and Hiking Skills courses.

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Ice climbing equipment and care
- Introduction to placing ice protection equipment, including multi-point anchors
- Route finding
- Ice climbing grading systems
- Seconding ice climbs
- Introduction to lead ice climbing
- Easy multi pitch climbing, including single and double rope techniques
- Escape/retreat/V threads from multi-pitch ice routes
- Emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

The course does not cover:

- Alpine skills; such as glacial travel, avalanche awareness, twin rope techniques
- Hiking skills; such as navigation and weather patterns
- The supervision or leadership of other climbers

Snow Climbing Skills

(Feeder Course for Mountaineering Instructor Award)

The Snow climbing Skills Course is a personal/recreational skills training course which provides training for those who wish to learn to climb snow climbs and snow gullies on the African continent.

Duration: 3 days

Syllabus:

- Snow climbing Equipment usage and care
- weather patterns
- Introduction to placing and building snow belays
- Properties of the snow pack
- Snow climbing grading systems
- Introduction to lead snow climbing
- Moving together in a roped party
- Escape/retreat from snow climbs
- Snow hole shelters and bivvies
- Avalanche awareness, Crevasse awareness
- Emergency procedures
- Introduction to high altitude health problems and their avoidance
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

The course does not cover:

- Alpine skills such as glacial travel, crevasse rescue
- Hiking skills such as navigation
- The supervision or leadership of other climbers

Kloofing (Canyoning, Canyoneering) skills

(Feeder course for Kloofing Leader Award)

The Kloofing Skills Course is an introductory personal/recreational skills training course, which provides training for those who wish to be introduced to the sport of kloofing (canyoneering / canyoning).

Prerequisite: This course requires personal skills equivalent to someone who has completed the both the Abseiling Skills and Hiking Skills courses. It also requires that participants be able to swim a minimum of 25m confidently in black water while wearing shoes.

Duration: 3 days

Syllabus:

- Equipment use and care
- The kloofing environment and its terminology
- Kloofing hazards
- Emergency preparedness
- Kloofing equipment
- Preparation for a kloofing trip
- Walking, wading and scrambling in kloof
- Kloof swimming techniques
- Jumping into water
- Basic abseiling in kloofs
- Emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

The course does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Kloof exploration skills
- Improvised rescue skills
- The supervision or leadership of other participants
- Multi-pitch or complex kloof abseils

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

The program is primarily concerned with good leadership practice, facilitating the safe enjoyment of the activity. Courses are not intended as basic skills training for people who have little or no experience in the activity. These courses are intended to train “mountain leaders” and as such they are expected to already have substantial personal recreational experience in the activity or have attended an appropriate MDT Skills Training Course.

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

LEADERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

The program provides training and assessment in various partially independent awards for those who are in a position of responsibility in each discipline. They are suitable for individuals working in a voluntary or semi-professional capacity.

SKILLS TRAINING COURSES

Award	Training	Assessment	Minimum Age	Minimum Instructor Qualification
Walking Group Leader	3 days	2 days	18	MLI
Mountain Leader	5 days	4 days	18	MLI
International Mountain Leader	10 days	9 days	18	MLI
Abseil Supervisor	4 days	1 day	18	RCI
Wall Climbing Supervisor	2 days	1 day	18	RCI
Single Pitch Supervisor	4 days	1 day	18	RCI
Multi-Pitch Supervisor	3 days	2 days	18	RCI
Kloofing Leader	4 days	2 days	18	KI

Walking Group Leader Award (WGLA)

The Walking Group Leader award is designed for people who want to lead groups in hill and mountainous areas, on non-technical terrain. With a strong focus on navigation, the award provides the leadership skills required to feel confident about taking people out walking. The award also includes expedition organization skills for multi-day trips.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old
- At least 20 quality walking days on appropriate terrain must be recorded in a log book

Training: Minimum course length is 3 days.

Candidates with substantial walking experience may apply for exemption from training.

Consolidation: A consolidation period of at least 3 months is recommended to practice skills.

Assessment: Minimum assessment course length is 2 days.

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Route planning
- Walking and route finding
- Navigation
- Campcraft
- Responsibilities of the Leader
- Group management
- Access, conservation and environmental knowledge
- Weather
- Non-technical river crossings
- Hazards and emergency procedures (not involving steep ground)
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

Scope of the Award:

The Walking Group Leader award provides the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the technical competence in leading groups in hilly and non-technical mountain areas. Such areas may be subject to hostile weather and require an element of self-sufficiency that is reflected in the syllabus.

The terrain imagined in this award meets the following criteria:

- Areas accessed and enclosed by well-defined boundaries such as trails, tracks and paths
- Areas of limited remoteness that are easily exited in a few hours, returning to a refuge, lodge, hotel or road head
- Areas where movement on steep or rocky terrain is not required (in either a planned or unplanned situation)
- Areas of limited altitudinal height where the environmental hazards associated with altitude are not a factor

Mountain Leader Award (MLA)

The Mountain Leader Award provides training and assessment in the technical and group management skills required by those who wish to lead groups in the mountains, hills and wilderness areas of southern Africa. Mountain Leaders are equipped to lead others in all mountainous regions in South Africa in both summer and winter conditions.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old
- Candidates should have at least 1 year's mountain walking experience
- A minimum of 20 Quality Mountain Days should be recorded in a log book with at least 5 in winter conditions

Training: The minimum course length is 5 days.

Candidates may apply for exemption from a training course based on personal experience.

Consolidation: The consolidation period varies from person to person but at least 6 months is recommended between training and assessment.

Assessment:

Candidates may apply for RPL assessment but before assessment candidates must:

- Be in possession of a minimum Level 2 First Aid certificate
- Have recorded a minimum of 40 Quality Mountain Days with at least 10 in winter conditions and 5 days at altitude ($\geq 2400\text{m}$). This experience must be spread across three distinct mountain ranges
- Have recorded at least 8 nights wild camping

The Assessment course is a minimum of 4 days long and includes an overnight expedition. Assessment includes a limited visibility (or night) navigation test.

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Group management and responsibilities of the leader
- Navigation
- Access and the environment
- Hazards (including steep ground, rivers and altitude)
- Scrambling and steep ground security
- Snowcraft (ice axe and crampon skills)
- Winter camping
- Expedition management
- Weather
- Background knowledge
- Emergency and rescue procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

Scope of the Award:

The Mountain Leader Award offers the technical competence to lead walkers and hikers into the highest and most remote mountain regions of southern Africa. It is the combination of technical skills, wide

experience and personal leadership which forms the basis for group management in a mountainous environment, and the award assesses all of these aspects.

Winter refers to the conditions of the mountain environment and not the season. Winter therefor refers to the presence of snow and ice, and the possibilities of cold weather injuries. Due to the rarity of winter conditions in southern Africa, experience of winter conditions in other countries is accepted and recommended.

The Mountain Leader Award does cover the use of ropes for security on scrambles but does not cover any aspect of rock or ice climbing.

International Mountain Leader Award (IMLA)

The International Mountain Leader Award provides comprehensive training and assessment for individuals who aspire to work as mountain leaders outside of South Africa and Lesotho. It integrates training, experience and assessment in a variety of realistic situations.

The Award provides training and assessment in the skills required for leading and educating groups worldwide in summer conditions and also on easy snow covered, rolling, Nordic type terrain in the “middle mountains” in winter conditions. The scheme does not involve the techniques and equipment of alpinism or glacial travel.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must have successfully completed the Mountain Leader Award
- A minimum of 20 quality summer mountain days must be recorded in a log book
- A minimum of 20 quality winter mountain days must be recorded with at least 10 being outside of South Africa and Lesotho
- A suitably independent referee must endorse a candidate’s log book.

Summer training: Minimum course length is 5 days.

Winter training: Minimum course length is 5 days.

Summer assessment: Summer assessment is a minimum of 4 days and must take place outside of South Africa. Before assessment can be undertaken the following criteria must be met:

- Candidates must hold a current First Aid certificate (minimum Level II)
- Candidates must have passed the speed navigation test
- Candidates must demonstrate further experience gained since summer training

Winter assessment: The International Mountain Leader Winter assessment is 5 days long and is based outside of South Africa and Lesotho. The following criteria must be met before IML Winter assessment can be attempted:

- Candidates must have completed IML Summer assessment
- Candidates must hold a Level II First Aid certificate
- The candidate’s log book must reflect a minimum of 30 quality international mountain days, and at least 30 quality winter days. At least 10 of the winter days must be outside of South Africa and Lesotho.

Syllabus:

- The mountain environment
- An overview of the legal and economic situation in which IML award holders work
- Group management and the responsibilities of the leader
- Teaching techniques
- Anatomy and physiology
- Physical ability and fitness
- Advanced navigation
- Weather and climate
- Security in mountainous terrain
- Bivouac and survival skills
- Expedition management
- Snow-covered terrain

- Emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills

Scope of the Award:

The Award provides training and assessment in the skills required for leading and educating groups worldwide in summer conditions and also on easy snow covered, rolling, Nordic type terrain in the “middle mountains” in winter conditions. The scheme does not involve the techniques and equipment of alpinism or glacial travel.

Wall Climbing Supervisor Award (WCSA)

The Wall Climbing Supervisor Award provides training and assessment for those who supervise bolted top-rope and leading on artificial walls and easily accessible natural crags.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old

Training: 2 days

Assessment: 1 day

If the pupil can show extensive prior experience and competence during the course, the instructor may proceed directly into a RPL assessment.

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Top rope anchors using bollards, trees, bolts and spikes
- Artificial (bolted) anchor points
- Belay techniques
- Supervising top roping
- Supervising bottom roping
- Supervising bolted lead climbing
- Supervising bouldering
- Rock climbing grading systems
- Rope types and uses, and equipment care
- Personal abseiling
- Escaping the system
- Basic understanding of Fall factors and impact forces in the safety chain
- Emergency Procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

The award does not cover:

- Access to any location where escape is not easily possible from the top and the bottom of a climb
- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Multi-pitch rock climbing
- The use of traditional anchors
- The skills required to supervise group abseiling

Abseil Supervisor Award (ASA)

The Abseil Supervisor Award provides training and assessment for those who are in a position of responsibility while supervising abseiling.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old

Training: 4 days

Assessment: 1 day

If the pupil can show extensive prior experience and competence during the course, the instructor may proceed directly into a RPL assessment.

The award covers:

- Equipment usage and care
- Personal and group safety at edges
- Belay techniques
- Artificial (bolted) anchor points and bollards, trees and spikes
- Group management
- Non-releasable abseils
- Releasable abseils
- Retrievable abseils
- Ascending the rope
- Hauling systems and Pick-offs
- Passing knots
- Rope types and uses, and equipment care
- Considerations and equipment for longer and complex abseils
- Emergency Procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

The award does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Access to any location where escape is not easily possible from the top and the bottom of the abseil site
- Multiple abseils, or abseils that involve intermediate stances

Single Pitch Supervisor Award (SPSA)

The Single Pitch Supervisor Award provides training and assessment for those who supervise single pitch traditional and sport rock climbing.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old
- Candidates are required to demonstrate experience of the concepts covered in the Rock Climbing Skills course.

Training: 4 days

Assessment: 1 day

If the pupil can show extensive prior experience and competence during the course, the instructor may proceed directly into a RPL assessment.

The award covers:

- Equipment usage and care
- Lead climbing of trad routes
- Lead climbing of sport routes
- Belay techniques
- Bolted and trad anchor systems
- Basic understanding of Fall factors and impact forces in the safety chain
- Group supervision
- Releasable and retrievable abseils
- Ascending the rope
- Hauling systems and stuck climbers
- Escaping the system
- Rope types and uses
- Emergency Procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

The award does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- Access to any location where escape is not easily possible from the top and the bottom of a climb
- Multi-pitch rock climbing and its supervision

Multi-pitch Supervisor Award (MPSA)

(Feeder Course for the Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor Award)

The Multi-pitch Supervisor Course provides training for those who supervise those wishing to learn to lead multi-pitch climbs. The course covers both Sport and Traditional climbing in a single and multi-pitch context.

Entry requirements:

- Candidates must be at least 18 years old
- Candidates are required to demonstrate experience of the concepts covered in the Single Pitch Supervisor and Abseil Supervisor Awards.

Training: 3 days

Assessment: 2 days

If the pupil can show extensive prior experience and competence during the course, the instructor may proceed directly into a RPL assessment.

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Access & the environment
- Knowledge of, selection and placing protection equipment, including multi-point anchors
- The science of climbing, including impact forces and fall factors
- Route finding
- Lead climbing
- Multi pitch climbing including single and double rope techniques
- Escaping/retreat from multi pitch routes
- Avoiding and solving common problems
- Rope management, knots, running belays
- Abseiling from improvised anchor points
- Emergency procedures
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

The award does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from mountain crags
- The supervision or leadership of other climbers
- Aid climbing

Kloofing Leader Award (KLA):

The Kloofing Leader Award provides structured training and assessment for the leaders of parties engaged in kloofing.

Entry requirements:

Candidates should possess skills equivalent to Kloofing Skills and Walking Group Leader Award.

Duration: 4 days

Assessment: 2 days

Syllabus:

- Equipment usage and care
- Trip planning and logistics
- Group leadership and management techniques
- Advanced kloofing ropework techniques
- Supervising novices in kloofing
- Prevention and management of injuries and illnesses common to kloofing
- Water rescue techniques
- Managing kloofing emergencies
- Rescue structures in SA
- Outdoor leadership and the law
- MDT and NQF training and qualification structure and skills
- Scope and remit of the qualification

The award does not cover:

- The skills needed to approach and retreat from remote mountain crags
- Installation of fixed anchors
- Abseils that involve intermediate stances or rebelays
- Kloofing that involves lead climbing
- Advanced techniques that are considered risky
- Canyon exploration considerations
- Formal canyon rescue

Instructor Awards

The Instructor Awards provide comprehensive assessment for individuals working as instructors privately or at mountaineering centers. The awards are primarily concerned with candidates' ability to run MDT courses and assessments in line with the organisation's requirements.

Mountain Leader Instructor (MLI)

Requirements prior to assessment:

Must hold or will be assessed additionally against the Mountain Leader Award or International Mountain Leader Award.

Assessment: 4 days

The assessment covers:

- Syllabus of the ML award or IML Award
- Syllabus of the Walking Group Leader Award
- Teaching methods of navigation
- Teaching methods of other aspects of syllabi
- Assessment process and standards of MDT Awards
- MDT administration

Rock Climbing Instructor (RCI)

Requirements prior to assessment:

Must hold or will be assessed additionally against at least the SPSA, ASA, RCL and WGL awards.

Assessment: 2 days

The assessment covers:

- Syllabus of the RCS Course
- Syllabus of the WCS award
- Syllabus of the AS award
- Syllabus of the SPS award
- Syllabus of the MPS award
- Checking of prescribed minimum experience requirements
- Teaching methods of the syllabi
- Assessment process and standards of MDT Awards
- MDT administration
- Personal climbing ability: Lead a multi-pitch traditional rock climb (no. of pitches: ≥ 4 ; grade: ≥ 17) with at least one assessor accompanying the climb. The climb must be completed in good and safe style and the assessor may at their discretion ask for certain safety or rescue skills to be demonstrated. This practical examination must form part of the overall assessment and may not be by-passed.

Kloofing Instructor (KI)

Requirements prior to assessment:

Must hold the WGL, ASA and KL awards prior to assessment. Should also possess a life-saving certificate or a Swift Water Rescue course prior to assessment.

Assessment: 2 days

The assessment covers:

- Syllabus of the KS course
- Syllabus of the KL award
- Teaching methods of all aspects of syllabi
- MDT administration
- Assessment process and standards of MDT Awards

Mountaineering Instructor Award (MIA)

The Mountaineering Instructors Award provides comprehensive assessment for individuals working as instructors in a voluntary capacity, privately or at mountaineering centers. It integrates training and assessment in a variety of testing conditions in mountainous country.

The program provides assessment in the skills required to teach and assess, general mountaineering, mountain hiking, mountain leadership and rock climbing and to conduct all courses and assessments of the MDT.

Some instructors will not teach certain aspects and can therefore omit the KLOOFING aspect, in which case the award will be endorsed with NO KLOOFING.

Requirements prior to assessment:

Must hold RCI and MLI awards.

The assessment covers:

- The syllabi of:
 - Hiking Skills
 - Abseiling Skills
 - Rock Climbing Skills
 - Ice Climbing Skills
 - Snow Climbing Skills
 - Kloofing (Canyoning, Canyoneering) skills (Optional)
 - Walking Group Leader Award (WGLA)
 - Abseil Supervisor Award
 - Kloofing Leader Award (Optional)
 - Single Pitch Supervisor Award
 - Multi-pitch Supervisor Award
 - Walking Group Leader Award
 - Mountain Leader Award
 - International Mountain Leader Award
 - Mountain Leader Instructor
 - Rock Climbing Instructor
- Checking of prescribed minimum experience requirements
- Teaching methods of the syllabi
- MDT administration
- Assessment process and standards of MDT Awards
- Personal climbing ability:
 - Lead a multi-pitch traditional rock-climb (no. of pitches: ≥ 6 ; grade: ≥ 16) with at least one assessor accompanying the climb. The climb must be completed in good and safe style and the assessor may at their discretion ask for certain safety or rescue skills to be demonstrated. This practical examination must form part of the overall assessment and may not be by-passed.
 - Lead a multi-pitch ice climb (no. of pitches: ≥ 3 ; grade: $\geq WI4$) with at least one assessor accompanying the climb. The climb must be completed in good and safe style and the assessor may at their discretion ask for certain safety or rescue skills to be

demonstrated. This practical examination must form part of the overall assessment and may not be by-passed.

Stages of awards

Each Award level comprises of:

1. Completion of a minimum prior experience/training checklist which is assessed by a Course Provider to confirm that the candidate is ready for leadership training
2. A training course (or sufficient proven experience) & registration with the MDT
3. Further experience gained during a consolidation period
4. Assessment comprising of theory and practical components
5. Moderation & certification (valid for a period of five years for leadership awards and three years for instructor awards)

Candidates are required to possess the skills for levels below the award they are attempting.

REGISTRATION

The candidate wishing to register must:

1. Be not less than eighteen years of age at time of assessment
2. Have a genuine interest in the activity and the supervision of groups
3. Complete the registration procedure. This should be obtained from and submitted to the MDT via an approved Course Provider.

Acceptance onto leadership training courses is not guaranteed. Potential Candidates must have met the minimum requirements for attendance on a leadership training course prior to acceptance.

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 to the MDT. The MDT administration then has a further 14 days to process these registrations, and to supply candidates with their registration number as recorded on the MDT database.

Candidates should feel free to contact the MDT administration at any time to check up on their registration process. Candidates should receive an e-mail/SMS/phone call/letter confirming receipt of their registration form once the MDT administration has received it. If candidates do not receive such confirmation, they may contact the MDT administration, who will contact the Course Provider immediately should the registration details not yet have been submitted.

The purpose of this is to ensure speedy registration, leading to satisfied MDT trainees. Candidates should be assured of the MDT's commitment to aid them in this process.

TRAINING

Formal training courses may only be run by appropriately qualified MDT instructors under the auspices of an accredited Service Provider. The course addresses the requirements of each award.

All Leadership courses assume the candidate has completed a Skills course in the discipline concerned or has substantial prior experience.

COURSE PROVIDERS

Course providers may only provide the following courses or assessments as follows:

Course	Course provider
Hiking Skills	Mountain Leader Instructor
Walking Group Leader	Mountain Leader Instructor
Mountain Leader	Mountain Leader Instructor (ML)
International Mountain Leader	Mountain Leader Instructor (IML)
Abseiling Skills	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Rock Climbing Skills	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Lead Climbing Skills	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Ice Climbing Skills	Mountaineering Instructor
Snow Climbing Skills	Mountaineering Instructor
Wall Climbing Supervisor	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Abseil Supervisor	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Single Pitch Supervisor	Rock Climbing or Mountaineering Instructor
Mountain Leader	Mountain Leader Instructor or Mountaineering Instructor
International Mountain Leader	Mountain Leader Instructor or Mountaineering Instructor
Kloofing Skills	Kloofing Instructor
Kloofing Leader	Kloofing Instructor

Quality control checks will be undertaken by the MDT via a course quality assurance which must be filled in by each candidate and then collected and returned to the MDT by the Service Provider along with the Candidates' registration form. Any Service provider who fails to adhere to the MDT's guidelines will be refused / discontinued Service Provider status.

A list of qualified instructors and accredited Service Providers will be made available on the MDT's website.

MODULAR FORMAT

Some training courses may be run as complete courses or as modules of each course in order to make training more easily available for people with limited time available. This is often dependent on the individual course as some courses do not lend themselves to a modular format.

FIRST AID

At the beginning of each assessment or reassessment the candidate must hold a currently valid first aid certificate.

LOGBOOK

Experience gained by the candidate should be recorded in a suitable logbook (an example is available from the MDT website). Entries should be concise, easily readable and should include participation, supervising and other relevant experience.

The logbook should contain:

- Particulars of the logbook holder
- A record of experience gained

- The particulars of the training course, completed by the Instructor and accredited Service Provider
- The particulars of the assessment

CONSOLIDATION

During the period between the training and assessment, the candidate is expected to gain appropriate experience under varying conditions.

EXPERIENCE

Candidates often experience some difficulty when compiling logbooks, in trying to determine whether or not they meet the experience requirements of the Program. The Director of Assessment will be looking for both depth and breadth of experience since a candidate who only has the minimum experience is unlikely to benefit from either training or assessment.

Experience should be focused on the core activity and not on peripheral or tangential activities.

ASSESSMENT

Before attending an assessment course the candidate must:

- Have registered with the MDT
- Possess the requisite skills and experience
- Be familiar with all aspects of the syllabus
- Hold an appropriate and valid first aid certificate

The candidate will be expected to present a pre-assessment checklist, logbook and first aid certificate to the Assessor, to confirm that the pre-assessment requirements of the program have been met.

During the assessment, the candidate will be tested in accordance with the syllabus requirements.

Assessment outcomes:

The assessor will endorse the candidate in one of three ways:

Pass

The candidate has demonstrated proper knowledge and application of the course syllabus and has shown the necessary experience.

Deferred

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 reassessment.

Fail

The candidate's performance has been clearly inadequate or dangerous practices have been evident. Failure requires a candidate to submit to re-training.

An assessment report will be submitted to the MDT Administrator for moderation and issuing of a certificate where applicable.

REASSESSMENT

The reassessment 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.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Exemption through RPL from the training and consolidation period is possible for the candidate who can demonstrate substantial experience prior to registration.

Candidates wishing to be considered for RPL must first submit their logbooks to the MDT Administrator who will nominate an MDT instructor (other than the instructor who will do the eventual assessment) to do a logbook assessment to verify the candidate's suitability. The cost of this logbook assessment will be for the candidate's account.

It must be stressed that the consolidation period is an essential part of the preparation for assessment, enabling the candidate to personally evaluate and appropriate the techniques demonstrated during training.

MODERATION

Every assessment undertaken by a Course Provider is moderated and candidates must understand that any provisional result given to them by their Course Provider may be overturned by the Moderation process. Full details will be provided to the candidate and Course Provider in this case. Full details of the Moderation process can be obtained from the MDT's Moderation Policy document.

COMPARISON WITH THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) registered National Qualifications are “work based” qualifications.

The SAQA Qualifications are unit standard based and are recognised by the SA Government for use for the purpose of registering as a professional guide with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in terms of the 2nd Tourism Amendment Act of 2000.

The MDT Awards are widely recognized by industry role players, but are not recognised by DEAT for purpose of the 2nd Tourism Amendment Act of 2000.

Candidates wishing to work as registered and legal guides in SA, must hold the SAQA Qualification, as the MDT Awards alone will not meet this requirement.

However, the SAQA and MDT qualifications are so similar, (the SAQA Units were written based on the MDT program), that the MDT Training Program is still a good option for the training part of candidates' qualification before they apply for assessment, whether they need a SAQA National Qualification or an MDT Award.

SUITABILITY

It is the duty of the organising authority to decide whether an award holder possesses the personal attributes needed to take responsibility for the care of individuals, groups or clients. It is the combination of technical skill, wide experience and personal qualities that form the basis for effective leadership. The program assesses the technical skills and experience; the organising authority has to gauge the personal qualities.

RECOGNITION OF PREVIOUS LEVELS

Holders of previous levels of MDT awards will be deemed to hold the equivalent of those awards, subject to the standard renewal period, at which time the new requirements will need to be met.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these programs:

A Leader is a person who can take responsibility for other people and lead or supervise an activity.

An instructor is a person who can teach people, including beginners, so they are competent to take part in an activity.

Abseiling is defined as the controlled descent on a rope:

- Without the use of intermediate stances
- Allowing the participant to be lowered to the ground at all times

Short Abseils are defined as not exceeding sixty meters in length, where the environment presents little objective danger, with no difficulties of approach or retreat.

Long Abseils are defined as exceeding sixty meters.

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

In terms of experience, the quality of a mountain day lies in a range of factors that make a positive contribution towards a person's development and maturity. Typically some or all of these criteria would be fulfilled:

- The individual takes part in the planning and leadership
- Adverse conditions may be encountered and navigation skills are required away from marked paths
- Experience must be in terrain and weather that is comparable to typical South African conditions
- Attention is paid to safety, knowledge is increased and skills are practiced
- The journey time is seven hours or more

A single pitch climb is defined as one which:

- Is climbed without intermediate stances
- Is described as single pitch in a guide book
- Allows students to be lowered to the ground at all times
- Is non-serious and has little objective danger
- Presents no difficulties of approach or retreat, such as route finding or scrambling

A Top-roped climb is defined as one which:

- Employs the use of a top-rope, where the participant is belayed from either below (bottom roping) or above (top roping)
- Allows the participant to be lowered to the ground at all times
- Is non-serious and has little objective danger
- Presents no difficulties of approach or retreat, such as route finding or scrambling

A Kloof (canyon) is defined as a deep, narrow, steep-sided (often vertical walled) valley, usually with a flowing watercourse (perennial or intermittent, resulting in "wet" and "dry" canyons). The biggest danger of kloofs is the inability to flee water which is rising rapidly for whatever reason.

Kloofing is defined as moving either up or down a kloof using a combination of techniques which may include boulder-hopping, wading, swimming, jumping, scrambling and abseiling.

NOTES

1. A list of approved and accredited Course Providers is available from the MDT.
2. Ideally, the candidate during the consolidation period should be under the direction of qualified award holder.
3. First Aid certificate levels should be suitable for the environment in which you will be operating and the type of injuries that may be sustained.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. South African Mountaineering Development and Training Program

Technical Committee.

2. Mountain Club of South Africa.

National Training Sub-committee (1994)

Mountain Leadership Train in Program. Proposed Policy and Guidelines a Consultative Document.

3. Union International des Associations d'Alpinisme

Working Group Training Standards

Model Training Standards for voluntary Leaders and Instructors.

4. Mountain Leader Training Board (UK)

Single Pitch Supervisors Award Prospectus and Syllabus.

5. United Kingdom Mountain Training Board (1995)

National Guidelines.

6. AEE: Safe Practice in Adventure Programming

Simon Priest and Tim Dixon

7. Adventure Qualifications Network cc

Quality Management Systems

Development of the revised MDT program.