

Dear Candidate ,

Thank you for your interest in our Mountain Leader Award assessment courses which are offered as a 5 day course or over two long weekends as a split course.

**Dates of Mountain Leader Assessment courses 2020.**

***Split assessment 2+3 days.***

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

***Five day course***

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**About the Mountain Leader assessment course**

The course is based in Pitlochry at Pitlochry Town Hall where we have access to a meeting room, a small kitchen for hot drinks which will be provided and toilet facilities. The course is largely practical and takes place on the hills however there are also a several discussion periods back at the Town Hall.

The course would usually be directed by Steve Spalding and will always include a second assessor. Our aim is to bring out the best in you and help you to enjoy and learn from the week. Feed back from previous candidates has regularly been that they feel the assessment has been a positive experience.

During the assessment we will cover all the main aspects of the syllabus . We hope that as well as being informative, the course will provide a realistic environment where you will be able to demonstrate your mountain skills and through this experience develop confidence to lead others in the UK mountains in summer conditions.

Every day on the hills is unique and offers its own challenges, we will try and find the best conditions and venues available each day as we cover the various aspects of the syllabus. The sample programme gives an example of how we anticipate running the course. The early evening discussions and reviews aim to finish by 6.45pm providing you with time to refuel and get ready for the next day.

Pitlochry is within easy access of a choice of venues, providing options throughout the week depending on prevailing conditions.



As a course provider we are approved by Mountain Training Scotland to run these courses and are regularly moderated as part of the quality management process.

All courses are offered on a self-catering / self drive basis (this means that there are 3 places in my transport and course members take turns to share transport, this keeps your course costs down).

Link to Mountain Leader award for full details of requirements.

<http://www.mountain-training.org/walking/awards/mountain-leader>

### Mountain Leader Award Assessment Course pre requirements

- ❑ You must have completed a recognised Mountain Leader Summer training course or gained exemption from training. Apply to Mountain Training Scotland or one of the other home nation Mountain Training Board's well in advance for the exemption from training option.
- ❑ You should be fit and capable of ascending 1000m with an expedition rucksack and coping with typical mountain weather for a three day expedition.
- ❑ Minimum 18 years of age and have 12 months mountain walking experience.
- ❑ Have an interest in leading groups.
- ❑ Log Book experience. **You must have forty or more Quality Mountain Days** mountain walking experience plus **8 wild camps**. 4 of these camps should be in a high mountain setting.
- ❑ Hold a 16 hr first aid course appropriate for working in the mountains.
- ❑ If you are unsure about your experience and would like some guidance, send me an electronic copy (pdf is best) of your paper log book before booking or invite me to view your Dlog <http://www.mountain-training.org/digital-logbook>



## Equipment

You will be expected to supply your own equipment for the assessment, with the exception of ropes and helmets, but if you have your own please bring them. For the expedition you may prefer to share a tent with another candidate to keep the weight down. You can organise this when you meet the other candidates. This is your choice.

We will be using the following maps during the week:

OS 1:50 000 Sheet 43 Braemar & Blair Atholl,

OS 1:25 000 Explorer OL49 Pitlochry & Loch Tummel.

If you have sheets 35, 36, 42, 51 bring them with you but don't buy them!

### Before the assessment-

- A home paper will be sent out two weeks before the course.
- You must ensure that your log book is up to date, paper log book is fine or Dlog
- Bring your **original** First Aid certificate/card with you, not a photocopy.

## Accommodation in Pitlochry

For most folk the Pitlochry Youth Hostel works well and is well equipped with a modern kitchen and drying room there is also the Backpackers Hotel on the high street. All courses will begin at 9am on the first day so you may choose to arrive for this start time if you live within easy driving distance rather than the previous evening.

We suggest that you book accommodation as soon as you have confirmation of a place on the course. Booking accommodation is your responsibility.

## Useful accommodation contact details

**Pitlochry Backpackers Hotel 01796 470044**

<http://pitlochrybackpackershotel.com>

Pitlochry Youth Hostel 01796 472308.

Pitlochry Tourist Information 01796 472215 for a full list of available accommodation.

<http://www.visitscotland.com/info/services/pitlochry-information-centre-p234421>

## Booking

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Please ensure that you have read the full Terms and Booking conditions on the booking form.

The course fee is £345. Payment can be made by Bank Transfer or cheque. (Payment details on the booking form).

To book a place on the course complete and return a booking form by post or email and pay a non returnable deposit of £ 100. The balance must be paid six weeks prior to the start of the course. If you wish the course fee to be invoiced please provide full details on your booking form.

Confirmation of your booking will be sent out to you on receipt of your deposit and completed booking form.

In the unlikely event of the course not reaching the minimum number required by Mountain Training for the course to run I will contact you a minimum of 14 days before the course start date to discuss options. If I cancell a course you will receive a full refund.

[Mountain Training Scotland](#) annually offers bursaries to support candidates wishing to undertake a training or assessment course in one of the Mountain Training qualification schemes provided by Mountain Training Scotland for whom the financial constraints may be a barrier to participation and whose participation may promote our commitment to diversity.

[Mountain Training Scotland bursary scheme](#)

[Mountain Training Org bursaries](#)

I look forward to hearing from you and would encourage you to get in touch if you need any further clarification or help.

Please get in touch if you have any questions -

[mail@stevespalding.plus.com](mailto:mail@stevespalding.plus.com) or 07775 901 551 / 01796 473916 if you prefer.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Kind regards

Steve Spalding

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Split and 5 day Mountain Leader Award Assessment sample program 2020  
 (The course covers the same syllabus either as a 2+3 day split course or run as over a continuous 5 day period)

|       |  |  |                        |
|-------|--|--|------------------------|
|       | <b>Sample Assessment Programme 2020</b>  |  | 5 - 6.30pm             |
|       | 9am<br>4.30pm  |  |                        |
| Day 1 | 9 am Meet at the Pitlochry Town Hall (PTH)<br>Introductions and setting the scene for the assessment<br><br>Micro navigation and emergency procedures, water hazards |  | Review home papers PTH |
| Day2  | Security on Steep ground   |  | Debrief PTH            |
| Day 3 | Expedition<br><br>Party management, access and conservation, expedition skills, route selection/planning and navigation skills                                       |  |                        |
| Day 4 | Expedition   |  |                        |
| Day 5 | Expedition<br><br>Return 2pm   | Results and debrief<br><br>Depart by 4.00 pm |                        |