

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 2021.**

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

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October

***Five day course***

Friday 21 to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**About the Mountain Leader assessment course**

The course is based in Perthshire. 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.

Pitlochry area 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.

You will need to provide your own transport under current Covid 19 guidance. Venues will be chosen with adequate parking to avoid anti social crowding of small parking areas.



## 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 <https://www.mountain-training.org/candidate-management-system/digital-logbook>

### **Covid 19 and course delivery.**

**You will be kept up to date with any significant changes prior to the start of the course.**

Courses will be delivered in line with current

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance> which will shape how we can deliver the training course and guided by;

<https://www.mountain-training.org/latest-news/national-mountain-training-organisations-covid-19-framework-for-decision-making>

and

<https://www.mountain-training.org/membership/mountain-training-association/news/covid-19-advice-for-members>.

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Key points that you should be aware of before booking are :

**You must be free of any Covid 19 symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste / smell, generally feeling not yourself) and have completed any required isolation period.**

If anyone develops Covid 19 symptoms during the course, the course will be curtailed. I will offer dates for completing the course at a later time.

The course will be run to a maximum of 4 candidates + one trainer.

Indoor discussions will not be possible 'A maximum of 8 people, including the trainer and candidates from up to two other households, can participate in a (indoor) session'.

- Distancing of 2m will be maintained which will change how we cover the syllabus especially some aspects of the Hazards section of the syllabus.
- Candidates will be buddied up with one other person to limit the possible spread of C19 through touching ropes etc.
- Each candidate will be supplied with a rope and helmet for the duration of the course if they don't have their own to avoid possible cross contamination. Any borrowed equipment will have been quarantined for 72 hours.
- For the overnight expedition you will need to solo camp.
- Everyone should carry several face coverings and regularly use hand sanitiser to maintain hand hygiene.
- The days on the hill will be longer than in the past to allow time for discussions. Some aspects will be covered by Zoom meetings - see attached programme.
- Any aspects that the trainer feels have not been adequately covered will be noted in a personalised action plan so you will know what you need to work on and may have missed due to C19 restrictions.
- Your contact details will be kept for 21 days to allow Trace and Protect to trace the course candidates if necessary.
- Each candidate must provide their own transport by car to each activity venue.
- Hand sanitiser and face coverings
- Access to 4G network and a smart phone / device with the Zoom app for the introductory talk and Zoom review of the home paper.



Link to Mountain Leader award for full details of requirements.  
<http://www.mountain-training.org/walking/awards/mountain-leader>

## 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

Booking accommodation is your responsibility. Be aware that C19 has changed the options available especially at Hostel type accommodation.

The Broxden Travel Lodge in Perth can provide cost effective accommodation.

### Booking

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

The course fee is £360. 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 cancel a course you will receive a full refund. In the event of my or your cancelling due to Covid 19 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

Kind regards

Steve

Steve Spalding



**Mountain Leader Award Assessment C19 adapted sample program 2021**  
 (this programme may change as C19 regulations evolve and change)

	<b>First Weekend</b>	Zoom meeting Course introduction
Day 1	8.30 am Meet at venue Micro navigation and emergency procedures, group equipment. Water Hazards	review of Home Paper on the hill
Day 2	8.30am Meet at venue Security on Steep ground Return to cars by 6pm	Expedition planning back at car parking area
	<b>Second Weekend (or the rest of the course for the straight 5 day assessment)</b>	
Day 3	11am Meet at venue ready for a three day expedition. Party management, access and conservation, expedition skills, route selection/planning and navigation skills	
Day 4	Expedition continues	
Day 5	Return to cars approximately 1.pm Results and debrief 4pm latest course ends.	