

Foothill Backpack Leader Requirements: B3 Course Student Trips Only

1. Be an active Mountaineers member with a current waiver.
2. Attend a New Hike-Urban Walk-Backpack Leader Seminar with the Mountaineers.
 - a. New leader seminar can be with any branch but must relate to backpacking.
3. Complete Wilderness First Aid (WFA) **or** Wilderness First Responder (WFR)
4. Complete one of three: Wilderness Navigation, On-Trail Navigation, Staying Found
 - a. The applicant can proceed with the process but cannot lead the required mentored trip until the above is completed.
5. Complete at least 3 B3 student-only backpack trips as a participant or assistant leader. This can happen within your B3 course season or while helping your lead mentor with trips during the mentor group's season.
6. Complete and submit a hike, backpack, and urban walk leader [application](#).
 - a. Indicate in the application the intent to lead student-only backpacks for the B3 course.
7. Complete a mentored B3-Course backpack activity.
 - a. Upon receipt of your application, Erin Vagley, Foothills Leader Coordinator or Cheryl Talbert, B3 Course Administrator, will update prospective leader on application status, and assist in finding prospective leader an approved Foothills mentor to lead the required open club activity:
 - i. The mentored trip is usually set up within you mentor group, with the lead mentor as the mentor for your required trip.
 - ii. Prospective leader to post and manage all elements of their activity under the guidance of approved Foothills mentor.
 - iii. Leader Coordinator or Chair will set the candidate up in provisional leader status for activity posting administrative purposes only.
 - b. Prospective Leader responsibilities:
 - i. Activity to be posted within the B3 course as a student-only trip.
 - ii. The prospective leader must post the activity as the primary leader and register the mentor as a co-leader.
 - iii. After the activity is complete, prospective leader will record volunteer hours for themselves and the mentor, complete a safety incident report (if applicable), designate the final activity result for participants and leaders, and close out activity.
 - c. Mentor responsibilities:
 - i. Mentor to fill out mentor evaluation form with a full assessment and submit to backpacking chair and leader coordinator.
 - ii. Based on the mentor's positive recommendation, the prospective leader will be notified that they've been granted full leader status for B3 student-only trips.

Note: Student-only leaders are NOT authorized to post or be primary leader or co-leader of an open club trip until they have had experience on an open backpack which includes exposure to vetting and group dynamics of diverse groups of participants and have led an open backpack trip with an experienced mentor. Note that other branches may not recognize student-only trips as acceptable to qualifying a leader to lead open trips for their branch.

A student-only leader may apply to become an open trip leader IF the lead mentor that they are co-mentoring with, or IF their mentor from the year they were a student, certifies in writing that they have had exposure to vetting of and management of group dynamics with diverse groups of participants representing general membership. That certification must be sent to Erin Vagley and copied to Christina Buckman and Cheryl Talbert. Upon receipt of that certification, the student-leader then needs to plan and carry out an open club trip with a certified Foothills open club leader as their mentor, and receive a favorable mentor evaluation.

For further questions, please reach out to either:

- Foothills Leader Coordinator: Erin Vagley (erinmountaineers@gmail.com)
- B3 Course Administrator: Cheryl Talbert (cascadehiker12@gmail.com)
- Foothills Backpack Chair: Christina Buckman (christina.buckman.2011@gmail.com)