

Foothill Backpack Leader Requirements

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 process but cannot lead the required mentored trip until the above is completed.
5. Complete at least 3 Mountaineers backpack trips within the past 2 years.
 - a. Activity must be open to all club participants (not within a course)
 - b. **Exceptions:**
 - i. **Leader in other club activities:** (i.e., scrambling, climbing)
 1. If applicant is a leader in other club branch activities where they have clearly been exposed to vetting and managing group dynamics, backpacking Chair to review and discuss with applicant for clarity and understanding and may reduce the 3-trip requirement to 1, for reasons of exposure to backpacking demographics and dynamics.
 - ii. **Leader in backpacking for another branches:**
 1. Chair to discuss with applicant for clarity and understanding and may eliminate the 3-trip requirement based on past leadership backpacking activities.
 - iii. **If applicant is a current B3 Course leader:**
 1. Chair to require 1-2 open club activities.
6. Complete and submit a hike, backpack, and urban walk leader [application](#).
7. Complete a mentored Foothills backpack activity.
 - a. Upon receipt of your application, Erin Vagley, Foothills Leader Coordinator, 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. Prospective leader to post and manage all elements of their activity under the guidance of approved Foothills mentor.
 - ii. 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 must be open to all participants (not a part of a course)
 - ii. The prospective leader must post the activity as the primary leader and register the mentor as a co-leader.
 - iii. The activity is to be posted under the Foothills Hiking, Backpacking or Urban Walks Committee.
 - iv. 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 by the Leader Coordinator that they've been granted full leader status.

For further questions, please reach out to either:

- Foothills Leader Coordinator: Erin Vagley (erinmountaineers@gmail.com)
- Foothills Backpack Chair: Christina Buckman (christina.buckman.2011@gmail.com)