

Foothills Snowshoe Leader Standards

Before you can sign up to lead a Mountaineers snowshoe trip, you must be on the leadership roster and have been awarded a snowshoe leader badge. Leadership qualities, group and individual safety, experience, and level-headed decision-making are four major components to successful leadership. Therefore, we have minimum requirements for those interested in becoming a volunteer trip leader (see below).

For the level you would like to lead, if your experience appears close to (or exceeds) these guidelines, please email the Chair for an application and/or discussion.

Note: Depending on the season and volunteer availability, the review process may take weeks to complete. All applications are subject to Snowshoe Committee approval.

Criteria	Basic Snowshoe Leader	Intermediate Snowshoe Leader
Current Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification, or equivalent	★	★
Current Wilderness Navigation certification	★	★
AIARE Level 1 certification	·	★
Winter Camping certification, or equivalent	·	★
Snowshoe Instructor Experience	Basic	Intermediate or Snow Scramble
Assistant Leader Experience	·	·
Minimum Mountaineers experience as a snowshoeing participant, or equivalent	min 6 trips over at least 2 seasons	min 8 trips, including min 3 intermediate trips, over at least 2 seasons
Completion of Mentored Leads (see below)	★	★
Completion of “Foundations of Leadership” eLearning Course	★	★

· recommended ★ required

Equivalency Notes:

WFA certification: Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA) are equivalent.

Winter Camping: Completion of the Basic Alpine Climbing Course is equivalent.

Trip Experience: Cross country ski trips are considered equivalent to Basic snowshoe trips. Winter scrambles, glacier climbs, and backcountry ski trips are considered equivalent to Intermediate snowshoe trips.

Mentored Leads

All prospective trip leaders must complete at least one mentored lead for each leader badge they wish to receive, including existing trip leaders. The purpose is to ensure that leaders know how to properly post, manage and close out snowshoeing trips, but also to ensure that the leader is familiar with the relative capabilities and desires of the snowshoeing audience.

An “existing leader” is one who already possesses an active leader badge for some other activity (hiking, scrambling, etc.) and has led at least 3 trips in the past 2 calendar years. Existing leaders are required to complete at least 1 mentored lead for each leader badge they wish to pursue.

New leaders must complete two mentored leads for the badge(s) they wish to pursue. If a leader wishes to pursue both Basic and Intermediate Snowshoe Leader at the same time, their two mentored leads can be one of each type.