**Seattle Mountaineers Naturalist Trip Leader Application 11-27-22**

Interested in becoming a Naturalist trip leader? Begin the process here by learning the requirements and completing the application process.

We are always interested in adding more trips to the schedule and becoming a leader is a great way to help us out!

Before you can sign up to lead a Seattle Mountaineers Naturalist trip, you must have earned the Naturalist Leader Badge. Leadership qualities, group and individual safety, experience, and level head decision-making are four major components to successful leadership. Therefore, we have minimum requirements for those interested in becoming a volunteer trip leader.

**Naturalist Trip Leader Requirements**

**Seattle Naturalist Trip Leader candidates must meet the following requirements to obtain the Naturalist Leader Badge**

* Mountaineers Membership – must be a member in good standing of The Mountaineers, with a current waiver.
* Age – must be at least 18 years old.
* Introduction to the Natural World (INW) Badge\*
* Naturalist Trips – must have successfully completed at least 2 trips, each with a different leader. These leaders must have the Naturalist Leader Badge on their profile.
* Group Leadership – must have completed the Hike Leader, Naturalist Leader and/or other Leadership Training\*
* First Aid – must be a Graduate of an approved Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course\*
* Navigation – must have successfully completed the Wilderness or an On-Trail Navigation course\*

The Mountaineers Naturalist Council has established Clubwide Minimum Standards, as outlined in the separate document Pathways to Naturalist Leadership with more detailed information and links.

\*Waiver requests can be made for specific requirements based on your knowledge of natural world topics and skills in leadership. Please document clearly below. Waiver requests will be reviewed and decided by the Naturalist Chair(s) and Leadership Coordinator.

**Seattle Naturalist Trip Leader Application Process:**

Anyone interested in becoming a Seattle Naturalist Trip Leader should complete the application below and send it to mseattlenaturalist@gmail.com.

Upon receipt of the completed application, you will be contacted for a short interview to review the requirements and give you a chance to ask questions. You will be encouraged to gain experience as an assistant leader on Naturalist Trips. The Leadership Coordinator will provide a list of mentor leaders who can advise and guide you in fulfilling any additional requirements. After fulfillment of the Requirements listed above, you will be asked to lead at least one mentored naturalist trip.

The purpose of the mentored naturalist trip is to focus on group dynamics and on the administrative steps necessary to set up, run, and close out a trip. Mentored leaders will list the trip, communicate with participants in advance, lead the trip, and then close out the trip. During the mentored lead, you will run the trip under the supervision of a mentor. Upon completion of the mentored naturalist trip and upon the positive recommendation of your mentor, you can become Naturalist Trip Leaders. The Naturalist Leader Badge will be assigned after approval by the Naturalist Leadership Subcommittee.

Newly approved leaders are requested to lead only uncomplicated routes that they are familiar with for their first several leads.

Application Process. The order of Steps 3, 4 and 5 may vary among individuals.

1. Completed Application
2. Interview to determine next steps
3. Completion of general leadership training, WFA and Navigation training
4. Naturalist-specific leadership training course (optional but highly recommended)
5. Assistant leader (may occur before or concurrently with 3 and 4)
6. Mentored trip **Seattle Mountaineers Naturalists Committee Trip Leader Application**

**Send completed application to** **mseattlenaturalist@gmail.com****.**

**Introduction**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date: |  |
| Name: |  |
| Over 18 years of age: |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Preferred phone # |  |

**Background**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Joined The Mountaineers |  |
| Year received Intro to the Natural World badge |  |
| If you have attended any activity-specific Leader Training, name of training, when and from which Mountaineers branch? |  |
| If you have First aid certification, list type and date |  |
| If you have current navigation training, list type and date |  |
| Are you requesting a waiver? If so, which requirement(s)? |  |

**Naturalist Trip Experience**

List most recent Mountaineers Naturalist trips that you have done. This list should include at least two different leaders who may be contacted as a reference. (Use additional rows if needed)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Trip** | **Leader** | **Date** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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**Instructor Experience**

If you have any, please share experiences you have instructing naturalist activities:

**Activity Involvement** List any other relevant Mountaineers or private activities you have been involved with (trips, committee positions, participation in courses, seminars, workshops, professional memberships etc.):