

Walk Leader 2010 Group Survey

Accompanying Notes for Groups



1. Introduction

The Ramblers is exploring the possibility of seeking to achieve accreditation for Led Walks Programme from the Mountain Leader Training Board (MLTB). For more information see [Led Walks – the Way Ahead](#) for more information. A major element required to achieve accreditation involves the introduction of training for Walk Leaders. In the recent Volunteer survey two-thirds of Walk Leaders called for more training.

In order to determine the potential scale of introducing a national training scheme information is requested from your Group to identify how many people lead Group walks and the type of terrain that they lead over. This has never been collated nationally before.

It is envisaged that different types of training would be available for different types of terrain. The training for walks over the hardest terrain would require more organisational resources to deliver than training for walks over the easiest terrain. It is proposed that training for people leading walks over easier terrain would be optional.

2. Responding to the Survey

This survey is for Groups to respond to. One response only per Group please.

All people leading walks **must** be members of the Ramblers to be covered by the insurance. For the purposes of the survey please indicate the number of people who lead walks, the vast majority of whom we anticipate will be members. Members who lead for many Groups should only be counted by the Group to which they belong.

Responses should be submitted on-line at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Walk_Leader_2010_Group_Survey before May 31st 2010. Hard copies will be accepted addressed to Led Walks Team at central office by May 21st. Hard copies are available on request for those without internet access by contacting the Led Walks Team.

The questions, with accompanying explanations, are below. Before submitting responses, some research and discussion will most likely be required.

3. Results

Results of this survey will be published on the website and publicised through a volunteer news story (see www.ramblers.org.uk/Volunteer/News/) after the survey closes. They will be used to help inform decisions regarding the potential introduction of a Ramblers training programme, which if it were to go ahead, would be slowly phased in over a period of many years.

4. Questions

These are the questions contained in the on-line survey:

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Your Group

Your position in the Group

Your name

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How many Leaders lead for your Group?

This is the number of people who are considered to be 'active' Walk Leaders. As a rough guide they should have either led a walk since Jan 1st 2009, or definitely be planning to lead a walk in the future.

You will be asked to indicate your confidence in the number. A best guess would be appreciated rather than choosing not to respond.

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How many leaders lead walks over the following type of terrain?

- **Lowland**
- **Open**
- **Open/remote**
- **Remote**
- **Extreme**

For the purposes of this survey only, terrain has been classified using a system adopted by Girlguiding UK, who have an established programme for training walk leaders and who have achieved accreditation from MLTB for their walking scheme.

It is appreciated that a lower level of confidence is likely to exist when answering this question.

An individual should be counted against each type of terrain that they lead walks in for the Ramblers. Thus one leader may be counted up to 5 times.

Definitions:

Terrain	Definition
Lowland	Lanes, tracks and paths, nature trails, fields, woods or other non-remote lowland areas, where the ability to read a map and find a route may be necessary, but weather conditions will not be extreme and the types of country will not present any great problems
Open	Paths and linear features with reliable boundaries where one or more of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are few features to assist route finding• There is little protection from wind rain or cold

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The height and nature of the country or the degree of isolation could present problems • The area can be exited easily in a few hours. <p>Open country does not include upland areas typically of more than 600m above sea level or without footpaths</p>
Open/remote	Open, uncultivated, non-mountainous high or remote country known variously as upland, moor, bog, fell, hill or down. Areas enclosed by well-defined geographical or man-made boundaries such as classified roads. Areas of remoteness that are easily exited in a few hours to a refuge or an accessible road. Areas where movement on steep or rocky terrain is not required (in either planned or unplanned situations).
Remote	Anywhere in the UK except steep slopes, rocky ground, scree, loose rock and exposed ridges
Extreme	Anywhere in the UK without footpaths, but may include steep slopes, rocky ground, scree, loose rock and exposed ridges

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How many leaders lead walks in the following terrain in winter conditions?

Open
Open/remote
Remote
Extreme

A higher level of training would be needed for walks taking place in winter conditions on the harder types of terrain. Greater levels of resource would be required with this training. Hence this quite specific question.

For the purposes of this question winter is defined as 'where snow or ice is prevalent or is forecast'.

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On behalf of your Group you are invited to indicate your level of support for the following (on a scale of Strongly Agree/Agree/Neither Agree nor Disagree/Against/Strongly Against):

- **Optional training for the easiest terrain**
- **Ensuring that suitable volunteers are involved with the delivery of training where possible**
- **Ensuring any existing individually held qualifications are recognised**
- **Greater safety management of led walks programme**
- **Seeking to achieve accreditation**
- **A co-ordinated training programme, available to all leaders**

Finally there is an open box for comments

Any questions about this survey should be sent to the Led Walks Team ledwalks@ramblers.org.uk or phone 020 7339 8519.

5. An optional extra

We would appreciate your assistance in helping the Ramblers to plan to provide better support and training. As a critical step to help scope the scale of a training scheme greater knowledge about Walk Leaders is necessary. CRM (the Ramblers database) has recently been developed to recognise members as Walk Leaders, enabling analysis and reports to become a possibility in the future. If take up is sufficient it is envisaged that it may be possible to make Walk Leader reports annually available to Groups. Over 1,400 people who voluntarily have signed up on-line over the last year are now recognised as Walk Leaders in CRM

Those Groups who would like Walk Leaders to be identified in CRM are invited to, separately, return a simple Excel spreadsheet (containing membership number, title, first name, surname and email address (where possible)). The spreadsheet is available [HERE](#) and should be returned to ledwalks@ramblers.org.uk. It does not matter if individuals have already signed up using the on-line form. Spreadsheets received by May 31st will be automatically uploaded to CRM. Any received after that will be manually entered, but still welcomed. Leaders can sign up as individuals at any time on-line. Those providing email addresses will receive monthly volunteer updates.

The spreadsheet should be sent by to ledwalks@ramblers.org.uk

*Led walks
24.02.10*