

# ROCK CLIMBING LEADER AWARD

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## PROSPECTUS

**South African Mountaineering  
Development and Training Trust**

Mountain Training Programme

Only Service Providers approved and accredited by the South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust (MDT) may provide training and assessment that will lead to MDT accreditation.

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## Foreword

The South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust Programme (MDT), was established to develop and maintain nationally recognised standards for the many clubs, organisations and individuals active in mountain related activities.

Controlled by the South African Mountaineering Development and Training Trust, a legally constituted body registered with the master of the Supreme Court, co-ordinates and administers the functioning of the Mountaineering Development and Training programme.

Introduced in 1996, the MDT comprises of nine partially independent Awards, each integrating practical, theoretical and experiential components through a process of training and assessment. From the Basic Mountain Walking Leader Award to the Mountaineering Instructor Award, each is primarily concerned with good practice, leading to the safe enjoyment of the activity.

Training and assessment courses are run by Service Providers<sup>1</sup> approved and accredited by the trust.

Since its introduction, the programme has gained the support of the many professional, semi-professional and voluntary guides, leaders and instructors active in South Africa's mountains.

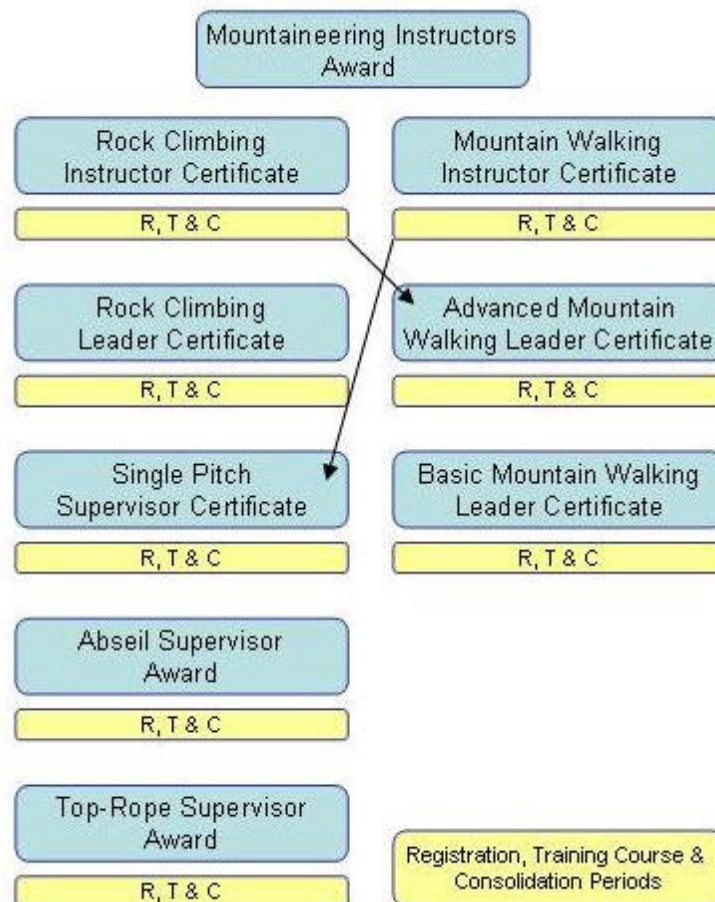
An overview of the Mountain Training Programme is provided below.

Information on the components of the MDT programme, how to register, or where to go for training and assessment courses can be obtained from:

MDT Administration, PO Box 662, Gillitts, 3603, South Africa

Email: [admin@mdt.za.org](mailto:admin@mdt.za.org)

Website: [www.mdt.za.org](http://www.mdt.za.org)



# Rock Climbing Leader Award Prospectus

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## Introduction

The Rock Climbing Leader Award provides training and assessment for those who wish to lead groups on multi-pitch rock climbs of moderate severity.

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## Scope

The award offers the candidate the opportunity to gain technical competence in leading on multi-pitch rock climbs of moderate severity that:

- are non-serious and have little objective danger
- present no difficulties of approach or retreat
- present little difficulty in route finding.

The award does not cover the skills needed to approach and retreat from remote mountain crags.

Completion of a training course alone, without taking an assessment course, is not a qualification in itself, although it may be of considerable benefit to the trainee.

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## Stages

The Award consists of:

- registration and issue of a logbook;
  - a five day training course;
  - further experience gained during a consolidation period;
  - a three day assessment course;
  - continuing experience entered in a logbook.
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## Registration

The candidate wishing to register must:

- not be less than eighteen years of age;
- have a genuine interest in rock climbing and the leadership of groups;
- have at least twenty four months of independent rock climbing experience;
- complete the registration application and enclose the appropriate fee. This should be submitted to the MDT via an approved Service Provider<sup>1</sup>.

Service Providers are given a period of 14 days from the date of completion of the course, to submit the registration details of their course attendees. The MDT administration then has a further 14 days to process these registrations, and to supply you with your registration number as recorded on the MDT database

Please feel free to contact the MDT administrator at any time to check up on your registration. You should receive a letter confirming receipt of your registration form once the MDT administration has received it. If you do not receive such confirmation, you may contact the MDT administrator, who will contact the Service Provider immediately should the registration details not yet have been submitted.

The purpose of this is to ensure speedy registration, leading to satisfied candidates. Please be assured of our commitment to aid you in this process.

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## Training

The candidate must attend a five-day training course run by an approved Service Provider.

The training course is for potential leaders and assumes basic competence in rock climbing. It emphasises those skills, which the candidate might have difficulty in learning without guidance.

On completion of training, the Service Provider will endorse the appropriate page(s) in the logbook.

### Logbook

Experience gained by the candidate should be recorded in the MDT Mountain Logbook. Entries should be concise and easily read, providing a complete record of the candidate's experience.

The logbook is divided into five sections, including:

- a record of experience gained prior to the training course;
  - particulars of the training course completed by the Service Provider;
  - a record of experience gained during the period between the training and assessment courses;
  - particulars of the assessment course completed and issued by the Service Provider;
  - a record of experience gained after assessment.
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## Consolidation

During the period between training and assessment courses, the candidate is expected to gain extensive experience of rock climbing and some practice in leading parties on climbs of moderate severity. The candidate is expected to have climbed at a variety of venues.

Experience gained abroad, while valuable is not a substitute for specific experience gained in South Africa. Candidates should therefore have substantial experience of South African rock climbing.

The consolidation period will be a minimum of twelve months.

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## First Aid

At the start of the assessment course the candidate must hold a currently valid approved First Aid Certificate

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## Assessment

Before attending an assessment course the candidate must:

- have led or alternate-led twenty named multi-pitch climbs at grade fifteen or above in at least three climbing areas;
- have acted in the capacity of assistant leader to a group on a multi-pitch climbs on a number of occasions;
- be familiar with all aspects of the syllabus;
- have gained a broad working knowledge of rock climbing including the crag and mountain environment;
- have obtained a reference from a referee;
- hold a valid approved first aid certificate.

The candidate will be expected to present a logbook and first aid certificate to the Service Provider, to confirm that these requirements of the award have been met.

During the assessment course, which lasts three days, the candidate will be tested in accordance with the syllabus requirements.

The Service Provider will endorse the Assessment Report in one of three ways:

**Pass**

Awarded where the candidate has demonstrated proper knowledge and application of the course syllabus and has shown the necessary experience for the application of abseil supervision.

**Deferred**

Awarded where the candidate has generally performed at the required standard and shown the necessary experience and attributes, but where complete proficiency has not been attained. Written recommendations for further experience will be given, along with details of the proposed one-day reassessment.

**Recommended Reassessment**

Awarded where the candidate's performance has been weak, or the necessary experience and attributes have not been shown.

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**Recognition of Prior Learning**

Exemption through RPL from the training & consolidation period is possible for the candidate who can demonstrate substantial experience prior to registration. It must be stressed that the consolidation period is an essential part of the preparation for assessment, enabling the candidate to personally evaluate the techniques demonstrated during training.

Full details of the RPL process can be obtained from the MDT's RPL Policy document

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**Moderation**

Every assessment undertaken by a Service Provider is moderated and candidates must understand that any provisional result given to them by their Service Provider may be overturned by the Moderation process. Full details will be provided to the candidate and Service Provider in this case.

Full details of the Moderation process can be obtained from the MDT's Moderation Policy document

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# Rock Climbing Leader Award Notes

1. A list of approved and accredited Service Providers is available from the MDT Administrator or website.

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## Scope

It is the duty of the employer or operating authority to decide whether a leader possesses the personal attributes needed to take responsibility for a group of people. It is the combination of technical skills, wide experience and personal qualities, which forms the basis for effective group management. The award assesses the technical skills and experience, the employer or operating authority must gauge personal qualities.

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## Experience

Candidates often experience some difficulty when compiling their registration forms and logbooks, in trying to determine whether or not they meet the experience requirements of the Award.

The Service Provider and the MDT are looking for both depth and breadth of experience since the candidate who only has the minimum experience is unlikely to benefit from either training or assessment courses.

The Rock Climbing Leader Award is South Africa oriented, therefore, experience recorded should reflect this. Whilst experience gained abroad is undoubtedly valuable it is not necessarily the most appropriate.

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# Advanced Mountain Walking Leader Award Acknowledgements

1. **South African Mountaineering Development and Training Programme**  
*Technical Committee.*
2. **Mountain Club of South Africa. National Training Sub-committee (1994)**  
*Mountain Leadership Training Scheme. Proposed Policy and Guidelines a Consultative Document.*
3. **Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme**  
Working Group Training Standards  
*Model Training Standards for voluntary Leaders and Instructors.*
4. **Mountain Leader Training Board (UK)**  
*Mountainwalking Leader Training Scheme Prospectus and Syllabus.*
5. **United Kingdom Mountain Training Board (1995)**  
*National Guidelines.*
6. **Adventure Qualifications Network cc**  
*Quality Management Systems*