

M RATING FAQ

The Angeles Chapter has recently added two M-level ratings. These FAQ's relate to the original M rating as well as the new M-rock and M-snow ratings.

What is the M rating?

An individual is qualified to lead all M-level outings: rock, snow, or rock and snow combined. This rating is the original M-rating.

What is the M-rock rating?

An individual is qualified to lead M-rated outings where M-level rock travel (but no M-level snow travel) is required.

What is the M-snow rating?

An individual is qualified to lead M-rated outings where M-level snow travel (but no M-level rock travel) is required.

What is the training and certification process for the original M rating?

If an I rated leader:

- Pass M rock and snow technical check-offs
- Be current in wilderness first aid and CPR
- Provide evidence in a climbing resume of experience on an appropriate number of rock and snow experience trips at Class 3 or higher to reach provisional status, as assessed by the Provisional Lead Committee (PLC) of LTC
- Complete the M-level written exam prior to leading provisional outings
- Lead two successful provisional outings, one that includes at least 100 feet of 3rd class rock climbing and another that consists of at least 400 feet of elevation gain on a snow slope between 25 and 35 degrees requiring the use of an ice axe.

If non-rated or O-rated, in addition to above:

- Be current in wilderness first aid and CPR
- Complete two days of environmental awareness training
- Pass the I/M-level navigation check-off.

What is the training and certification process for an M-rock [snow] rating?

If an I rated leader:

- Pass an M rock [snow] technical check-off
- Be current in wilderness first aid and CPR
- Provide evidence in a climbing resume of experience on an appropriate number of rock [snow] experience trips at Class 3 or higher to reach provisional status, as assessed by the Provisional Lead Committee of LTC
- Complete the M-level written exam prior to leading the provisional outing
- For M-rock: lead a provisional outing including at least 100 feet of 3rd class rock climbing.
- For M-snow: lead a provisional outing consisting of at least 400 feet of

elevation gain on a snow slope between 25 and 35 degrees and requiring the use of an ice axe.

If non-rated or O-rated:

- Be current in wilderness first aid and CPR
- Complete two days of environmental awareness training
- Pass the I/M-level navigation check-off
- Pass the M rock or snow technical check-off
- Provide evidence in a climbing resume of experience on an appropriate number of rock [snow] experience trips at Class 3 or higher to reach provisional status, as assessed by the Provisional Lead Committee of LTC
- Complete the M-level written exam prior to leading the provisional outings
- Lead two provisional outings: one I- or M-level provisional outing that demonstrates navigation and one for M-rock or M-snow (see above) (one provisional lead must be a back pack).

Where can I get the M written exam and how do I take it?

The exam may be requested from the LTC Administration Chair at any time after attending a seminar and is also available on-line at the LTC web site under "Forms." It is completed at home and submitted to a designated LTC member for evaluation. If the exam is satisfactory, the evaluator will return the exam with comments to the candidate and notify the Administration Chair that the candidate has successfully passed the exam. You must complete the written exam prior to leading your provisional outing(s).

How do I achieve provisional-M status?

Once a candidate has satisfactorily completed all of the requirements aside from provisional outings, the candidate should send his or her climbing resume to the LTC Chair for evaluation by the PLC. Once the candidate is approved by the PLC, the LTC Administration Chair will notify the Safety Committee, which will recognize the candidate as a provisional leader. The candidate may then submit proposals for provisional outings.

How should I prepare my resume?

See the LTC website for a model resume and pointers for preparing the resume.

After meeting all standards for becoming a provisional M, the next step is preparing to lead provisional outings. How do I get a provisional outing approved and published?

- Choose an appropriate destination that will meet the requirements for M-level rock or snow. You may need to consult other leaders, an outings chair, or the LTC chair or administrative chair to make sure your objective meets the criteria.
- Choose an appropriately rated assistant leader who is willing to evaluate you.
- Following the format of the *Schedule of Activities*, prepare a trip announcement.

- Prepare an application for a non-training outing to be submitted to the Mountaineering Oversight Committee. All M-level snow outings require this, as do all M-level outings on which ropes may be used (most M-level rock provisionals are in this category). Applications are on the outings form page of the LTC website.
- Send the trip announcement with the MOC application to the sponsoring entity's outings chair.
- When the outings chair approves your outing, he or she will send the MOC application on to the MOC for review and arrange the publication of the outing in the *Schedule*, in a newsletter, or on a web site as appropriate. All outings, provisional or not, must be published to be Sierra Club outings.

Who approves my provisional outings?

Your Outings Chair, Safety Committee and often the Mountaineering Oversight Committee (MOC).

What is the Provisional Lead Committee (PLC)?

Consists of the LTC Chair, Vice-chair, Rock Chair, Snow Chair, and Administrative Chair.

What is the Mountaineering Oversight Committee (MOC)?

The MOC is a Sierra Club National Committee that reviews and approves applications for restricted mountaineering outings, i.e., outings that involve the use of ropes, ice axes or other mountaineering equipment. These outings are restricted to Sierra Club members only and are designated by the "R" in "MR" and "ER" in trip ratings.

What is the difference between an M and M-restricted outing?

An M trip is one in which the leaders do not expect ropes, ice axes, or similar mountaineering equipment to be used. For M-restricted outing, leaders expect someone might want a rope belay or that the group will encounter snow requiring the use of ice axes and possibly crampons for safety. M-restricted outings must be approved by the MOC (applications available at the LTC web site), are open to Sierra Club members only, and require that each participant and leader submit a medical form prior to the outing (available at the LTC web site).

If I have already successfully completed one of my provisional M rock or snow trips, how do I apply for the new rating?

Contact the LTC Administration Chair.

What are an "appropriate" number of experience trips for my resume?

The number may vary, depending on quality as determined by the Provisional Lead Committee, which will approve or disapprove the potential leader to lead provisional trips based on what it considers sufficient experience in the kinds of trips that Angeles Chapter M (and E) leaders typically lead. A candidate may be asked to gain more experience before proceeding to the provisional stage. Consult your Outings Chair, as well as the LTC Chair for advice.

What do I do if my intention is to get only an M-rock [snow] rating?

Inform the LTC Administration Chair.

What other Angeles Chapter or National Sierra Club standards do I need to be aware of?

Sierra Club membership currency, first aid currency, and OLT101 currency (first aid and OLT101 are current for four years),

Links and contacts for guidance, training and trips

LTC (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc>)

- Includes links for the LTC Chair, Rock and Snow Chairs, etc.
- Includes advice and information for leaders, including a "Model M/E Climbing Resume"
- Includes forms for leaders and provisional leaders

SPS (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps>)

DPS (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/dps>)

HPS (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/hps>)

WTC (<http://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/>)

Training and experience can also be obtained through SCMA

(<http://www.rockclimbing.org/>) and Sierra Mountaineering International (Kurt Wedberg) www.sierramountaineering.com/.