



Mountaineering Leadership Course

Leadership Training Committee

Angeles Chapter Sierra Club

2002 Mountaineering Leadership Course General Class Outline

Goal: The Mountaineering Leadership Course is designed to help club leaders improve their skills so they can lead safe, challenging outings at the M and E levels.

The course will consist of a weekend seminar, followed by three weekend outings.

1. Harwood seminar

Dates: Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21, 2002

Goals: Outline Sierra Club policies and goals for M and E level trips, with special emphasis on safety. Teach all knots used in M and E checkoffs, with discussion of their potential uses. Teach rope management. Practice setting up anchors, belaying and climbing and rappelling on gentle slopes.

2. Snow outing

Dates: Saturday, May 4, through Sunday, May 5, 2002

Goals: Demonstrate proper use of ice ax and crampons in snow climbing. Teach students how to set up anchors and how to manage roped climbs.

3. Rock outing

Dates: Saturday, May 18, through Sunday, May 19, 2002

Goals: Teach students how to properly belay, how to set up anchors and how to manage roped climbs.

4. Graduation trip

Dates: Saturday, June 1, through Sunday, June 2, 2002 (Possibly will include the preceding Friday or the following Monday).

Goals: Have students demonstrate all or most M and E skills in a single outing. Take a great 4th-class climb.



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Questions and Answers

Question: Who is this class for?

Answer: MLC is for leaders who are seeking the Angeles Chapter M or E rating.

Q: What are the qualifications for applying?

A: MLC applicants must be Sierra Club members who have passed the LTC Seminar, taken at least five chapter outings and passed the I/M Navigation Checkoff. On top of that, all applicants must have some experience mountaineering in the High Sierra. We're looking specifically for experience on 3rd or 4th class rock and snow. You should have gone on at least one rock trip requiring the use of ropes and at least one snow trip requiring the use of ice axe or crampons. Finally, we're looking for people who have demonstrated their commitment to leading and their potential for becoming great leaders.

Q: I think I meet most of the requirements but may be a little shy on the climbing experience. Can I still apply?

A: Yes. Please do apply. We're willing to be flexible and, if there's room, you still might be accepted.

Q: I'm already working on an M. Do I have to take this class?

A: Nope. The Leadership Training Committee, the folks who train people for ratings in the Angeles Chapter, think this class will help a lot of people obtain their M's. But there are some gung-ho mountaineers who are learning everything they need to know on their own. If you're one of them, please keep up the great work. If you think you could use some instruction, consider enrolling in MLC.

Q: I already have an M, but my mountaineering skills are rusty. Can I take MLC?

A: Sure. But you need to know that LTC's priority is training new leaders for the M and E ratings. We'll offer new leaders slots in the class before we open it up to current M's. MLC is a small class – we're only accepting 20 students – so there may not be room for rated leaders.

Q: I'm interested in rock and snow trips but not sure I want to become a leader. Can I take MLC?

A: Yes. But we'll give priority to applicants who are committed to becoming leaders.

Q: How will you choose students?

A: A panel of top chapter outings leaders will comb through the resumes, looking for the best-qualified candidates.

Q: What's the cost?

A: The price is \$100. However, students must provide their own gear, including mountaineering boots, climbing harnesses and helmets. We also expect all students to read Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills (6th edition). If you've taken WTC recently, you already have the book; if not, you'll need to buy or borrow it.

Q: When will it be offered?

A: MLC will begin with a seminar at the chapter's Harwood Lodge near Mount Baldy. The seminar starts Friday evening, April 19, and wraps up Sunday afternoon, April 21. The snow outing is May 4-5. The rock outing is May 18-19. The survivors will go on a graduation trip June 1-2.

Q: Four weekends is a lot of time. What's on the schedule?

A: During the Harwood seminar, students will hear lectures on safety, conservation and all aspects of managing mountaineering trips, from screening participants to dealing with the unexpected. We'll also view videos exploring techniques, review all the important knots and practice setting up anchors. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night.

The snow and rock weekends each will be 3rd or 4th class outings. Expect to use ropes on the rock. Expect to use ice axes and crampons on the snow. Expect to spend time both weekends setting up anchors, belaying and rappelling.

Depending on the weather, we hope to encounter the best of both worlds on the graduation trip. As one of our staffers would put it, expect a gnarly time.

Q: Do I have to attend every class?

A: Yes.

Q: And I'll have my M at the end of the class?

A: Nope. You must pass the rock and snow checkoffs. You also must build up your climbing resume by taking official and private trips to the Sierra and desert peaks. And, of course, you must successfully lead two provisional trips. Figure on another year or two of hard play in the mountains before you can sew that "M" patch on your backpack.

Q: What's the deadline? When will I know if I'm in?

A: Applications are due to the registrar by March 31. Please apply early; otherwise, we won't be able to tell you if you're in or out until a week before the class.

Q: I've got a question that wasn't answered here...

A: Call, or better yet e-mail the registrar, Ron Campbell, at 714/962-8521 or ronjanec@gte.net. If he doesn't have an answer, he'll find someone who does.



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Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

APPLICATION FORM

The Leadership Training Committee will choose students for MLC after reviewing applications. We are looking for experienced climbers with high potential to become M- or E-rated leaders.

Please complete the application, front and back, and submit with a check for \$100, payable to LTC. Mail completed application and two SASEs to MLC Registrar Ron Campbell, 21432 Dockside Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646.

For questions, call 714/962-8521 or e-mail: ronjanec@gte.net. **Postmark deadline for applications is March 31, 2002.**

1. Name		2. Sierra Club # and exp. date		3. Current rating	
4. Mail address			5. City		6. Zip
7. Home phone		8. Work phone		9. E-mail	
10. Date completed LTC seminar		11. Date completed Nav checkoff		12. Sections in which you lead (if any)	
13. List five scheduled chapter outings in which you participated. (If you already have a rating, you may skip this question.)					
14. Describe your conditioning routine. Specify what you do to keep in shape and how often you do it.					
15. Briefly describe on the back of this form the 5 to 10 most challenging outings you have taken in the past two years. These may be private or Sierra Club trips. All of these trips should involve extensive cross-country travel with some rock or snow. At least one of the listed trips must involve roped travel across rock. At least one of the listed trips must involve the use of ice ax or crampons. For each trip, give the approximate date, the peak, and a description of the route. Note all listed trips that you led.					