

Checklist for Leaders of Mountaineers Basic Experience Climbs

SET CLIMB ARRANGEMENTS

- Select an appropriate climb
- Choose party size
- Schedule climb with the club (larch.forest.net/mountaineers)
- Screen participants by phone
- Identify pre-existing medical conditions
- Check Mountaineer membership (800-573-8484)
- Get release signed by non-member (must be done in town)

RESEARCH THE ROUTE AND APPROACH

- Use guidebooks and Mountaineers' resources
- Ask other leaders
- Find out what permits are required
- Check road and trail conditions
- Identify needed maps and route descriptions
- Assess weather and avalanche outlook

DETERMINE EQUIPMENT NEEDS

- Personal and technical gear (ice ax, crampons etc.)
- Group gear (tents, stoves, water filters etc.)
- Obtain club ropes and other gear
- Identify tent and cooking groups

DEVELOP A TRIP ITINERARY

- Set a "Go or No-Go" deadline
- Assess party strength
- Estimate times for driving, approach and climb
- Establish a turnaround time
- Leave itinerary with responsible person

LISTS FOR CLIMBERS & RESPONSIBLE PERSON

- Names of party members
- Trip itinerary
- Personal and group gear
- Meeting and driving details
- Carpool details and trailhead permit requirements
- Maps required and climb route information

AT THE MEETING PLACE

- Check equipment and driving directions
- Make introductions

ON THE WAY TO TRAILHEAD

- Register with park or forest agencies, if required
- Make a final check of weather and avalanche conditions

AT THE TRAILHEAD

- Distribute group gear
- Choose a MOFA leader
- Designate an assistant for emergencies
- Discuss approach and route

ON THE APPROACH

- Keep the party together
- Be wary of trail junctions

ON THE CLIMB

- Let participants know the climb plan
- Communicate time and duration of breaks
- Explain decisions or initiate discussions
- Reinforce good climbing practice and emphasize safety
- Keep track of people and how they are doing
- Help manage rope teams and keep them in contact
- Be mindful of the turnaround time

ON THE WAY OUT

- Assign a "trail sweep"
- Regroup periodically
- Be sure that no one leaves the trailhead until everyone is out and all cars have been started

FOLLOW UP

- Complete a climb report on the club's web-site
- Give basic students a performance assessment