

ACC OTTAWA SECTION - BECOMING A TRIP LEADER

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The Ottawa section depends on the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers for all its activities. Get involved in your club by sharing your time and skills with others. In particular, we always need new trip leaders. With sufficient leaders, each person need lead only one or two trips per year for the club to have a rich and diversified trip program without a disproportionate load on any one individual.

Have you thought about becoming a trip leader but are unsure what is involved? Here's what we look for in new leaders for rock climbing, ice climbing, hiking, back packing, backcountry snowshoeing or skiing – key skills and experience suitable for the activity:

- good technical skills and a variety of experience over several years,
- planning ability,
- safety awareness,
- physical fitness,
- sound judgement,
- backcountry navigation skills,
- first aid training (preferably Wilderness First Aid qualification), and
- good inter-personal skills.

OK, you've got most of that but you are still unsure of your experience level. Not a problem. Talk to the Climbing Convener or Hiking/Skiing Convener about the Trip Leader Mentorship program. They will pair you with an experienced amateur leader to assist you in developing leadership experience at your own pace by co-leading suitable trips. When you both feel confident with your experience level, you can begin to lead scheduled trips on your own.

Make a difference in your club. Become a trip leader. It's a rewarding experience. Not only that, but it is club policy to partially subsidize, within its financial means, appropriate skill and leadership training for section volunteer leaders.