

In order to become a leader for the AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, you must complete the following three steps:

1. Be a member of the AMC for at least six months and participate in four or more AMC outdoor activities with at least two different leaders.
2. Successfully complete an AMC Outdoor Leadership Training course that is approved by the DV Chapter

OR

Be recommended by a DV Chapter leader based on equivalent previous experience, such as having led trips for another AMC Chapter, the Sierra Club, or similar organization. Candidates with such previous experience may apply for approval by contacting the Leadership Chair.

3. Successfully co-lead at least two scheduled chapter activities, be recommended by your mentor leaders, and approved by the Leadership Chair and the activity chair.

Once leadership status has been attained for a particular activity (most leaders begin as hike leaders), the leader may become certified for leading other AMC-DV activities (biking, backpacking, trail work, skiing, paddling).

Leadership for each activity must be individually certified. The leader should co-lead one of the new activities, and demonstrate the required skills. This requirement can be waived at the discretion of the activity chairperson, and upon receiving approval of the Leadership Chair, based on extensive experience in that activity.

For the first mentored co-lead, the Leader in Training assists the experienced DV leader (Leader of Record). For the second, the Leader in Training does the actual planning, with the assistance of the experienced leader. A DV Leader who wishes to become certified to lead an additional activity should do the actual planning of that activity, with the assistance of an experienced DV Leader. In order to be a Leader of Record for an activity (an experienced DV Leader who works with a leader trainee), a leader must have led at least three trips in that activity for AMC-DV and been an AMC-DV leader for at least six months. New leader activity requests will be scrutinized to a greater degree by the chapter reviewer to better assure the leader has demonstrated adequate skills to maintain participant safety.

Backpacking Leader Guidelines For leading backpacking trips, in consideration of the extended nature of these activities, ALL (new and continuing) backpack leaders must have taken a certified Wilderness or Backcountry First Aid course in the past five years. Proof of completion of such a certified course must be submitted to the Backpacking Chair. It is highly recommended that the certification be kept current. It is also highly recommended that backpack leaders should take a CPR course and keep it current. An individual who has become certified as a backpacking leader will also be certified as a day hike leader.

To become a backpacking leader, a minimum of three backpacking co-leads are required for new leaders, or two co-leads for current DV activity leaders. All prospective backpacking leaders must have participated in at least three AMC-DV backpacking trips prior to becoming a leader (in addition to the required co-leads), candidates who have met the requisite co-leads and/or successfully completed AMC Mountain Leadership School (or equivalent) may apply for approval by contacting the Backpacking Chair.

A leader must have participated in three winter backpacks with AMC-DV, characterized either by overnight temperatures or date, in order to become a winter backpacking leader. Leaders having successfully met the stated requirements must be approved by the Backpacking Chair.

Group size for all AMC-DV backpacking trips is to be limited to a maximum of 12 participants, including the leader(s).

Bicycling Leader Guidelines An approved DV Outdoor Activity Leader may become a Bicycling Leader by completing one bicycling co-lead, in which the trainee plans and executes the bike ride in its entirety, with the assistance of an approved Bicycling Leader. A person who has completed the Outdoor Leadership Training course but is not yet an approved AMC-DV leader may become a Bicycling Leader by completing two required co-leads. Leaders having successfully met the stated requirements must be approved by the Bicycling Chair.

Paddling Leader Guidelines For leading paddling activities, contact the Paddling Chair for this group's leadership requirements. Or see <http://amcdv.org/assets/dv-amc-general-paddling-policy.pdf>

Leadership training course costs are reimbursed at 50 percent for those who lead two activities for the chapter within one year.

For additional information on becoming an activity leader for the DV Chapter, contact the chapter Leadership Chair at leadership@amcdv.org