



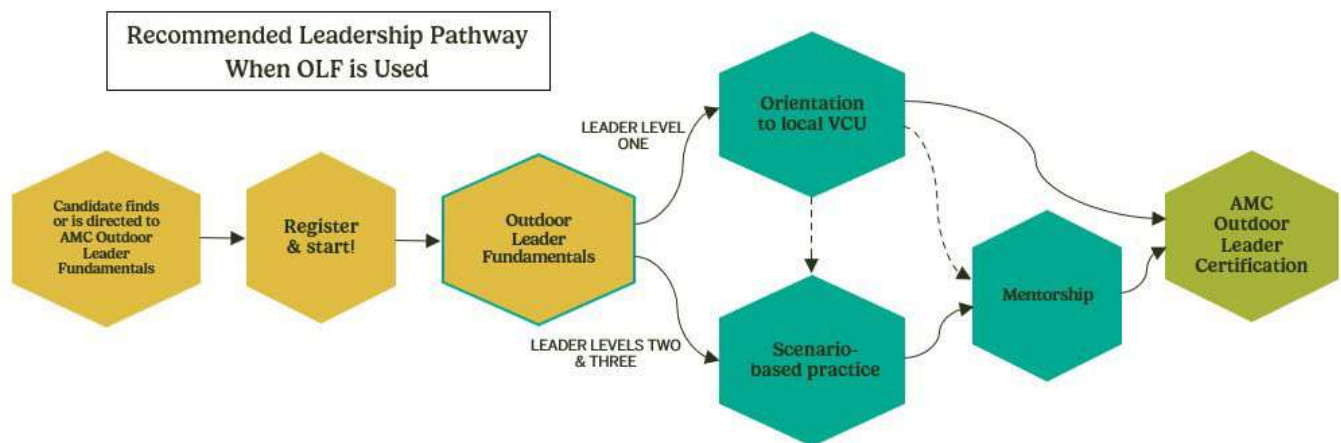
**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN CLUB**
SINCE 1876

Outdoor Leader Fundamentals: An Online Leadership Training and Knowledge Center

A Reference for Volunteer Facilitators

What is Outdoor Leader Fundamentals (OLF)?

Outdoor Leader Fundamentals (OLF) is an online training and knowledge center built through the collaboration of AMC volunteers, staff, and our partner, Build Capable. It is one of the first steps a potential leader-in-training takes as they move along AMC's unified path to leadership. This training tool fulfills the topic requirements for Outdoor Leadership Training, as outlined in the Leadership Requirements and Guidelines. It is designed as a reference for all volunteer leaders and to support the level of competency required for level one hikes or walks permissions. This tool does not replace the essential orientation to a chapter or volunteer club unit (VCU); or mentorship from an experienced leader. All of which are important for building fluency and connecting with the AMC community.



How to Integrate Outdoor Leader Fundamentals into your Volunteer Club Unit

Outdoor Leader Fundamentals is a flexible tool designed to support AMC Volunteer Club Units (VCUs) in a way that is meaningful to each unit's needs. We recommend that VCU's consider integrating it for one or both of the following purposes:

1. To provide the necessary training for Level One hikes and walks.
2. To incorporate it into a hybrid training program for Level Two and Three leaders.

Below, you'll find a job aid outlining recommendations for adopting Outdoor Leader Fundamentals as part of AMC's unified path to leadership, known as Outdoor Leader Certification, which includes all three leadership levels.

Outdoor Leader Certification

This job aid provides a concise guide for the three levels of Outdoor Leader Certification. It outlines the recommendations, processes, and key steps to achieve each level.

Summary of Training Pathway:

1. Level One: Complete Online Training + Local VCU Orientation.
2. Level Two: Complete Online Training + In-Person Scenario-Based Training.
3. Level Three: Complete Online Training + Multi-Day In-Person Activity-Specific Training.

Outdoor Leader Certification: Level One

Objective: **Introduction to leadership basics to lead accessible or relaxed activities.**

- Training Format:
 - Online, self-paced learning (Outdoor Leader Fundamentals).
 - Accessed via a link from outdoors.org (available anytime, anywhere).
- Live outreach:
 - After completing Outdoor Leader Fundamentals, local Volunteer Chapter (or other VCU) will contact new leaders. This can be done via a live virtual meeting, phone call, or in-person.
 - Training Topics:
 - Introduction to the local VCU community norms.
 - How to post trips and utilize Volunteer Leader Resources.
 - Next steps to complete the leadership pathway (e.g., co-leads, mentored activities).

Outdoor Leader Certification: Level Two

Objective: **Build upon Level One to lead easy to moderate activities.**

- Training Format:
 - Online (Outdoor Leader Fundamentals): **Completion of this baseline is recommended, like Level One.**

- In-Person Training:
 - **Scenario-based field training is recommended for Level Two. This training includes:**
 - Duration: **Half to full day.**
 - Focus Areas:
 - **Technical skills validation for specific outdoor activities.**
 - **Practical application of topics from Level One training.**

Outdoor Leader Certification: Level Three

Objective: **Prepare to lead vigorous or strenuous activities.**

- Training Format:
 - Online (Outdoor Leader Fundamentals): **Completion of this baseline is recommended, just like in Level One and Two.**
 - In-Person Training:
 - **A single or multi-day in-person training is recommended for Level Three.**
 - Focus Areas:
 - **Activity-specific skills (e.g., backpacking, climbing).**
 - **Support from certification pathways (e.g., Mountain Education Alliance, Trails Skills College).**
 - Duration:
 - **The training duration will vary based on the activity. For example, backpacking training may require 3-4 days to ensure fluency in the skills.**

Next Steps and Certification:

1. Mentorship & Co-Lead Opportunities:
 - **As a new leader, engage in mentorship and co-lead opportunities to gain hands-on experience and further build leadership skills via the extraordinary value of first-person input from out experienced leaders.**
2. Certification:
 - **After completing the required training and mentoring, leaders will receive their certification and permissions to lead at their respective levels.**

Refreshing Training:

Experienced leaders who on-boarded prior to the roll out of Outdoor Leader Fundamentals are invited to engage with the training tool as a means of bringing focused attention back to some of the leadership skills that may have become second nature to them in their years of active service. The tool is intentionally divided by topic to make it easier for seasoned leaders to spend time in the areas that they want to refresh, even if there are others that don't currently need their full completion again.

Resources

[Volunteer Resources Site](#)

[Leader-in-Training Evaluation Form](#)

[Curriculum \(including scenarios\) for live training sessions](#)