



National
Guidance
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Frequently Asked Questions – Adventure Activity Qualifications

What Qualifications are Appropriate for Leading or Advising on Adventure Activities?

Anyone leading an adventure activity should have their competence confirmed by a robust verification process, such as:

- holding a leadership/coaching award at an appropriate level;
- being 'signed off' by a suitably qualified technical adviser appointed by the employer, based upon relevant qualifications, training and/or experience.

Several awarding bodies provide guidance about their qualifications, including matrices which show which qualifications are appropriate for leading or advising on various activities. These include the following:

- Mountain Training, for walking, climbing and related activities, at www.mountain-training.org/about/qualification-matrices
- Sports Leaders, for lowland walking and camping expeditions, at www.sportsleaders.org/qualifications-programmes/expedition-leadership
- Countryside Leader Award, for lowland walking and camping expeditions, at www.countrysideleaderaward.org
- British Canoeing, for paddlesport activities, at www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/qualification-and-awards-matrices-for-paddlesport-led-activity
- British Caving Association, for underground activities, at british-caving.org.uk/our-work/training/leadership-awards
- British Cycling, for mountain bike activities, at www.britishcycling.org.uk/mtbleadership/article/MTBqualificationmatrix

Qualifications from other awarding bodies are also available.

Approval of leaders should involve more than the assessment of technical competence. For further guidance, see OEAP National Guidance document [3.2d "Approval of Leaders"](#).

