

Walk Leader

Role, Requirements & Responsibilities

ROLE

- To ensure the group has an enjoyable and, above all, safe day out.

REQUIREMENTS

The Walk Leader should :-

- be able to use a map and compass.
- know how to use the club GPS to determine their location.
- know how to use group equipment such as emergency shelters, Cas-straps, etc.
- either, know how to apply first aid or, identify members in the group that are first aid trained and/or can apply first aid.
- know how to contact other club members and/or the coach in the event of an emergency.
- be familiar with the club emergency procedures.
- be able to control the group.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare beforehand for the walk to be led (e.g. nature of the terrain, items of interest en route, escape routes, etc.)
- Review the list of walkers on that particular walk, prior to departure, including any new members or those whose level of fitness may not be apparent to the walk leader.
- Ensure that the party has the necessary group equipment with them (e.g. GPS, emergency shelters, Cas-straps, first aid kit, etc.) where appropriate.
- Ensure that they take a fully charged mobile phone and know the numbers of other club members and contact at coach.
- When possible, identify other map-readers within the group, who could act as a back-up.
- Select a sweeper from the party, who will bring up the rear of the group.
- Encourage other members on the walk to use map and compass.
- Maintain visual contact with all group members during the walk.
- Decide where and when to split large groups, and appoint a leader for any sub-group.
- Keep to the published route, wherever possible.
- Ensure the group returns to the coach at the appropriate time (i.e. not too early and not too late).
- Undertake an ongoing risk assessment along the entire route based on terrain, weather conditions, fitness of members, speed of group, etc.

For further information and explanation of the above, please refer to either the old guidelines booklet or those on our website www.stedwardsfellwalkers.co.uk