



Hill Walking Adventure Skill Development Plan 2011



The Hillwalking Skills Team has developed a plan of action for 2011 and would ask you to circulate this as far and wide as you can as we have found that not all formal communications reach all persons.

The plan has three paths of development (Spurs), to interact with each participant at their correct level of experience.

Spur one – To interact with Scouts and Scouters assessed to level 5 at local level.

Under the new assessment protocol a local scout group can internally assess hill skills to level 5, preferably using peer review to identify the most proficient persons and then apply the two down rule (i.e. a 5 award a 3). To get to stage six the candidates will need to be assessed by either a level 8 or a level 9 (currently around 25 nationally). There will be two open training and assessment weekends next year, aimed at training and assessing to stages 6 & 7. These will be based on the pilot hillwalking weekend last August but with additional training elements and includes an overnight camp on the hills with a night navigation exercise, and a full leave no trace awareness session. The venue will be decided depending on demand but the dates are;

25th to the 27th of March 2011

26th to the 28th of August 2011

We are also going to run a very specific training course aimed at Ventures / Rovers & Scouters at stage 7 standards, to develop their confidence to lead teams on MPC / Sionnach style events. This will be run as a camping weekend in the Comeragh Mountains to include 2 nights wild camping, a LNT session and workshops on the skills needed to lead MPC/Sionnach Style events. The date of this course is the 10th to 12th June 2011

We have also developed a three weekend level 6 training & assessment course that will be available for programme centres, campsite, provinces, counties and perhaps even Groups to run. (Details from the team at the email address below)

Spur Two – To get the current corps of level 7's up to level 8 and 9

We are going to organise external Mountain Skills training where needed, and encourage all members of the expert panel who do not hold an official Mountain Skills Award to gain one. We will then encourage them to do their ML 1 training and this along with a minimum of a REC2 covers off most of level 8. This training and assessment will be done in groups of 4 and will be organised as people express interest.

Spur Three – To further develop the Level 9's

We have already arranged a mock ML assessment and rope work revision course and have organised a ML assessment for early December with 7 of the level 9's attending. We are also developing links into both the Mountaineering Ireland Winter and Alpine meets to cover the aspects of winter training and altitude required for level 9. There will be small bursaries for scouts / scouters attend these or other training courses.

To further develop the internal training ability of Scouting Ireland we are now encouraging all ML holders within Scouting Ireland to attend a BOS Train the trainers Workshop, which along with acting as an assistant instructor for a period, will allow them to train official BOS mountain skills courses within scouts. The second area of attention here is to see if we can get ML's to start training for the IML (International Mountain Leader) will allow us to run ML training in house.

Summary

All of the information in relation to the specific stages of the skill is outlined in the Adventure Skills Handbook (A4 version) and additional information will shortly be on line on my.scouts.ie

The core hillwalking skills team can be contact anytime at scouthillwalking@gmail.com, and this address can also be used to book onto the courses and assessments as outlined above. As we don't like to hide behind an email address the team is David Batt, John Barron, Charlie McGuinness, Paul Barron and Simon Stringer, and we look forward to seeing you all on the hills