1. Introduction

This is an assessment checklist to use in assessing an applicant to gain a permit to lead climbing. More details on the permit scheme, assessing, technical skills and climbing can be found in resources listed on [scouts.org.uk/a-z](http://www.scouts.org.uk/a-z).

**Using this checklist**

This checklist is the syllabus that an applicant should be assessed against for the technical section of gaining a permit. The columns on the right of each skill show whether it is applicable for each type of permit:

* P - Personal
* L – Leadership permits
* S – Supervisory permits

1. Once an assessment is complete either, a Scout Accredited Assessor should make a recommendation on the membership system, including uploading a copy of this form. Or where an External Assessor is used this form should be filled in and given to the applicant to take to their Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver to be added to the membership system. For those under 18, this form should be filled in and given to the applicant to take to their Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver, the final page must be completed and stored locally.
2. Equivalent qualifications

If an applicant holds an award of the Mountain Training Boards from the table below, or equivalent or higher, and has up to date logged experience, then no practical assessment is likely to be required as they have already shown competence in all of the skills listed in this assessment checklist. They will still require a recommendation from an Activity Assessor prior to a Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver granting the permit.

MT = Mountain Training.

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| **QUALIFICATION** | **PERMIT** |
| MT Climbing Wall Instructor. | Artificial Top Rope (no abseil) |
| MT Climbing Wall Instructor + Abseil Module | Artificial Top Rope (abseil) |
| MT Climbing Wall Development Instructor | Artificial Lead |
| MT Rock Climbing Instructor | Natural Top Rope |
| MT Rock Climbing Development Instructor. | Natural Lead |
| MT Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor | Multi-Pitch |
| NICAS Level 2 - Foundation climber / Unsupervised.  NICAS Level 3 - Technical Climbing. | Artificial Top Rope (No abseil) |
| MT Rock Skills – Intermediate. | Natural Top Rope |

**Technical publication**

If you require any more technical information on any of the elements in the checklist, these can be found in the official technical manual, which is:

**Rock Climbing –** Essential Climbing Techniques by Libby Peter - Third Edition – The official handbook of Mountain Training’s climbing schemes – August 2022 – ISBN- 978-0993033728.

Climbing Name:

| Core Skill | Artificial **Top rope** | | | Natural Top Rope | | | Artificial Lead | | | Natural Lead | | | Multi-Pitch | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| P | L | S | P | L | S | P | L | S | P | L | S | P | L |
| **Responsibilities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Be aware of the limits of your own abilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Choose objectives appropriate to the group. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Plan effectively in advance. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Manage groups so that they have minimal impact and leave the crag or outdoor venue in an improved condition where possible. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **•** Show an awareness of climbing wall rules and regulations, and demonstrate an ability to obtain and comply with this information. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Group Management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Manage and communicate with a group effectively. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ensure the group is adequately briefed before climbing. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to manage participant belayers on two adjacent rope systems |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to identify group members with the skills and experience to be able to lead climbing as a designated leader under supervision. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to set up appropriate monitoring systems to effectively supervise climbing groups. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to ensure that designated leaders are aware of their responsibilities. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Risk Assessment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Know how to complete a risk assessment. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to effectively identify the hazards and risks and know how to reduce or remove them, during climbing. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to train participants to carry out their own dynamic risk assessments. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Weather** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of where to gain weather information. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of how weather conditions can affect climbing. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Technical** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Able to describe the grading systems used in the UK and Ireland. Specific to the climbing environment and select / routes that are appropriate to the participants abilities but allow for progression. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to select suitable, sound anchors. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to set up equalised top rope belays and anchor |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to run warm up activities and have an understanding of why this is required either as an individual or with a group. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to tie into a rope and attach group members or themselves to the rope. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to use a belay device competently and demonstrate an effective safe belaying technique. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to hold falls and carry out lowers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to instruct others belaying |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Demonstrate basic climbing movement skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to give adequate advice to a stuck climber so that they may be lowered back to the ground. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to set up a releasable abseil system for group use. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to safeguard novice abseilers and deal with common problems. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to set up of lead climbing belays and anchors. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to place a variety of lead protection devices and runners. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to belay lead climbers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to supervise others belaying lead climbers. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to set up multi directional belay anchors. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to escape from a belay system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to retreat from a multi-pitch climb using appropriate abseil techniques. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Experience in a variety of different climbing environments. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Experience of working with a variety of different activity groups. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Emergency Procedures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of relevant procedures in the event of an accident. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to deal with a stuck climber and stuck abseiler situations. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Equipment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of personal equipment required and how it is used. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Knowledge of group equipment required and how it is used. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Understanding of additional equipment required by the leader. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Ability to evaluate the condition of equipment and demonstrate checking and storing equipment as per manufacturer recommendations / instructions. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| 1. Notes: |
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**Climbing - Permit Assessment**

DATA PROTECTION: This form is used to collect information about you for the purpose of approving your permit application, this is to be used by your Activity Assessor, Lead Volunteer and Permit Approver. As part of this form, we collect personal data about you, your Assessor, Lead Volunteer and or Permit Approver, this detail is required so that we can log your permit onto the membership system and follow up as necessary with your Assessor, Lead Volunteer and or Permit Approver. We do not share the data provided in this form with any third parties. The data provided in this form is stored securely in the membership system (or locally for under 18s, please refer to local data protection statements). We take your personal data privacy seriously. We will keep the data we capture from this form, in line with the Scout’s Data Retention Policy and it will be securely disposed of six months after the permit expires unless held within the national membership system.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant’s name** |  | | | **Membership No.** | |  | |
| **Permit applied for** | Artificial Top Rope  / Natural Top Rope  / Artificial Lead  / Natural Lead  / Multi-Pitch | | | | | | |
| **Category** | Personal  / Leadership  / Supervisory | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| **Notes:** | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. TECHNICAL COMPETENCE | | | | | | Done |  |
| **Description:** Technical assessment based on competence in all areas of the assessment checklist.  **To be completed by:** Either an Activity Assessor or an External Assessor with the appropriate NGB award. | | | | | | | |
| Restrictions based on technical assessment: | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | Date |  | |
| Assessor Signature | |  | | | **Name** |  | |
| Activity Assessor Membership Number | | |  | | | | |
| External Assessor Phone/Email | | |  | | | | |
| External Assessor Qualification | | |  | | | | |

**For use with 18’s only – all adult permits must be entered into the membership system prior to them progressing beyond this point.**

This along with any supportive evidence must be stored locally along as per the data retention details above.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2. SCOUT ASSOCIATION RULES | | | | | | | | | | | | Done |  |
| **Description:** Check of knowledge of the appropriate Scout Association rules for running climbing. Appropriate rules can be found in the hillwalking section of [scouts.org.uk/a-z](http://www.scouts.org.uk/a-z).  **To be completed by:** An Activity Assessor or Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Restrictions based on knowledge of The Scout Association rules: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | Date | | |  | |
| Signature |  | | Name | | |  | | | Role | | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. PERSONAL SUITABILITY | | | | | | | | | | | | Done |  |
| **Description:** Check the applicant is suitable (attitude, etc.) based on the demands of climbing.  **To be completed by:** A Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Restrictions based on personal suitability: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | Date | | | |  | |
| **Signature** |  | | Name | | |  | | Role | | | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. PERMIT GRANTED | | | | | | | | | | | Done | |  |
| **Description:** Confirm Parts 1, 2, and 3 have been completed. Send a copy to the young person and store it locally with supporting evidence.  **To be completed by:** A Lead Volunteer or Permit Approver. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Restrictions: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | Permit expiry date (max. 5 years) | | | | | | |  | |
| Signature | |  | | **Name** | | |  | | | Date | |  | |