

# **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CLIMBING WALL SUPERVISORS AWARD**

### **SYLLABUS**

**WHITE HALL CENTRE**

# DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CLIMBING WALL SUPERVISORS AWARD White Hall

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This award is designed to provide a level of competence for those in a position of responsibility for supervising groups and individuals at specified climbing walls.

It is based on the Mountain Leader Training England ( MLTE ) Climbing Wall Guidance Notes. 'How to structure and operate a site-specified climbing wall supervisor scheme'.

### 1.2 PROVIDERS OF THE AWARD AND REGISTRATION

The award is administered by Derbyshire County Council at White Hall Centre.

All training and assessment course providers have to be registered and approved with White Hall I (see providers requirements 2.1).

Candidates for the award need to be registered with White Hall Centre

### 1.3 SCOPE OF THE AWARD

The aim of this award is to provide teachers, youth workers & other individuals with the skills to supervise individuals or groups demonstrating current safe practice at specific climbing wall sites.

These sites are inspected by the provider as to their suitability for the scheme, and also reflect the needs of the supervisor. They will then be stated as specific sites on the supervisor's log book.

Any extension of these sites must have an extensive risk assessment to include the layout, usage and the candidate's experience.

The scope of the scheme is for bottom roping and bouldering only, and does not cover leading or abseiling. It does not require the supervisor to lead or solo climbs.

### 1.4 STAGES IN THE AWARD SCHEME

The award scheme comprises:

- One day ( 6hr) training course.
- Consolidation period between training and assessment will be stipulated by the trainer.
- Half day assessment
- 3 year, half day workshop and logbook revalidation.

## 1.5 TRAINING PREREQUISITES

- Candidates should have experienced climbing outside on natural or quarried rock to demonstrate knowledge of the broader nature of the sport.
- Candidates should have climbed at climbing walls at least five times within the last two years.
- Candidates should be at least 17 years old for training and 18 or over for assessment.

## 1.6 TRAINING

- (a) There will be a maximum of 8 candidates per trainer.
- (b) Following the course, oral feedback will be given to each candidate.
- (c) Each candidate will also be issued a logbook including a training report. The logbook is divided into four sections:
  - Training course report
  - Consolidation period; logged personal and supervisory experience.
  - Assessment course report.
  - Post-assessment experience.

## 1.7 TRAINING, SYLLABUS CONTENT

- (a) The use and care of equipment

**Harnesses:** Candidates should be introduced to a variety of designs and be aware of safety considerations concerning the buckling attachment of the rope and monitoring of harnesses in use. They should be able to select appropriate harnesses for the client group and evaluate wear and damage.

**Karabiners:** Candidates should be able to select appropriate karabiners, demonstrate correct usage, including fastening any form of locking karabiner. They should also be made aware of the type of lower off attachment at the specific site.

**Belay Devices:** Candidates should be introduced to a variety of belay devices across a range from slick to grabbing. Devices such as the gri-gri/ Single Rope Controller (SRC) should also be introduced. It is important that advantages and limitations of the devices are understood and that candidates can use a variety of them safely. It is also vital that an understanding of the relationship between rope type and belaying device is developed.

**Ropes:** Candidates should be introduced to common types of 'kernmantel' rope, understand their construction and associated characteristics. They should be able to identify damage, excessive wear and take appropriate action.

**Knowledge of climbing wall anchor systems.**

**Helmets:** Candidates should be able to evaluate the appropriateness of helmet use. They should also be able to correctly adjust, fit and secure helmets as any facility or client group may insist upon their use.

**Rock boots.** Where these may be issued to clients candidates should be able to fit and check for damage.

(b) Skills

Attach rope to harness. The candidate should be able to attach the rope using

- i. Rethreaded figure of eight knot.

Demonstrate safe and efficient belaying technique including tying off the device. It is a basic, and unavoidable, requirement that candidates must themselves be thoroughly capable at taking in and lowering using a variety of belay devices. They should also be capable of demonstrating and coaching others in belaying technique.

Demonstrate basic climbing movements. The candidate should be able to aid the activities of the clients through an understanding of how to use the body to climb and an ability to communicate that understanding to others.

Demonstrate a working knowledge of the principles of warming up, warming down and injury avoidance.

Problems. Be aware of the common problems that may arise during a climbing session and take steps to avoid or minimize their likelihood.

Including:

- Stuck climber.
- Weight differences between the climber and belayer.
- Setting ropes.

(c) Supervision.

Candidates should demonstrate the supervision of others belaying and know when to intervene. They should also have an understanding of the difficulties associated with supervising a number of belayers. It is important that any site-specific regulations are observed.

Manage a group at a wall. Candidates must show an understanding of the needs of other wall users and ways of working that do not inconvenience or put others at risk. They also need to develop strategies for controlling groups within a wall environment.

Supervise bouldering activities. The candidate should be able to use the activity of bouldering to develop skills and strengths in participants. They should be able to demonstrate and supervise safe 'spotting' and control the activity in order to minimise risks; eg the imposition of height limits and definition of fall zones.

Observe appropriate working practices. Specific venues may have child and vulnerable adult protection policies that need to be observed. Candidates should be aware of the need to both protect, and work in such a way as to maximise the safety of, children and vulnerable adults from abuse. Ref: to British Mountaineering Council (BMC) Child Protection Policy. Awareness of the need to protect children from the pressures of 'over training' for climbing given their physiology. They should also be aware of the need to observe sensible precautions for their own security.

(d) Knowledge

Safety requirements. Candidates should be familiar with general and site-specific safety requirements. They should be aware of any rules and regulations that may apply to both ordinary participants and supervised groups.

Knowledge of the activity. Candidates should be able to inform participants about the wider world of climbing and relate the site-specific to the general. It would be advantageous if they can refer participants to opportunities for development.

(e) Additional walls. See 1.9

## **1.8 CONSOLIDATION PERIOD**

- Candidates must have climbed at individual specific climbing wall sites 5 times or more. One of these occasions must be assisting with a group.

- All candidates must have assisted with groups at least 3 times in a climbing wall situation.

## **1.9 ASSESSMENT**

Assessment will take place over half day (3hrs). It will be in two parts:

- Half skills assessment.
- Half group supervision.

## **1.10 ADDITIONAL WALLS**

Additional walls can be added at a later stage subject to a written risk assessment, a site visit with an assessor and logbook evidence of extensive use.

## **COURSE PROVIDERS INFORMATION**

- 2.1** Course administrator is Derbyshire County Council at White Hall Centre

Providers have to be registered and trained with White Hall or Youth Service Outdoor Activity Unit.

Providers will have technical expert status, the minimum being the Mountain Instructors Award (MIA).

- 2.2** Single Pitch Award holders involved in the delivery of the award scheme must do so under the direction of the Provider.

# **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CLIMBING WALL SUPERVISORS AWARD**

### **LOG BOOK**

**WHITE HALL CENTRE**

Section 3

Assessment Report

Derbyshire County Council

Climbing Wall Supervisors Award

*(To be completed and inserted by Director of Assessment)*

Ms/Mr/Mrs etc \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attended an Assessment Course with \_\_\_\_\_

The Course Provider \_\_\_\_\_

The Provider was satisfied that the Candidate fulfilled the requirement of the syllabus and demonstrated the technical competence to supervise climbing groups on these climbing walls:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Provider of Assessment

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Further Experience

The Derbyshire County Council Climbing Wall Supervisors Award assesses the technical and group management skills necessary for supervising groups at specific climbing walls, using bottom roping and bouldering techniques.

It is the duty of the employer or organiser to decide whether a supervisor possesses the personal attributes needed to take responsibility for the care of groups. It is the combination of technical skills, wide experience and personal qualities which forms the basis for effective supervision. The scheme assesses the technical skills and experience. The employer or organising authority has to gauge the personal qualities.

Ref: British Mountaineering Council (BMC) Participation Statement. Candidates are required to keep an up to date logbook and attend a half day revalidation every 3 years. Furthermore, this section will provide excellent background information for other awards such as the Single Pitch Award from Mountain Training.

# Training Course Report

## Derbyshire County Council Climbing Wall Award

(completed by Provider of Training)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

attended a Training Course with \_\_\_\_\_

The Course Provider \_\_\_\_\_

General outline of the course and climbing walls used and any other helpful information.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Provider of Training

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Consolidation Period

During the consolidation period between training and assessment, candidates are advised to climb at as wide a range of venues as possible on climbing walls and, if possible, on natural rock, both as an individual and assisting in the supervision of others. The following pages will confirm a log of that experience.

The mandatory requirements before attending an assessment course are:

- Registration
- Attending a training course.
- Gained further experience – Minimum is:-
  - Candidates must have climbed at individual specific climbing wall sites 5 times or more. One of these occasions must be assisting with a group.
  - To have the climbing wall recorded, after assessment as a specific climbing wall site.
  - All candidates must have assisted with groups at least 3 times in a climbing wall situation.



