

How to Become a DMC Leader

The DMC works best when new leaders join. That's how we run more trips, better trips, and generally keep things exciting. That's why you should consider working toward leadership. To learn how, please read *the entire document*.

First things first:

Let a DMC chair know that you're working on becoming a leader! This way we can keep you informed of relevant courses and dates, and more importantly, we can get you access to the lockers in Robo basement with the gear you'll need to get out climbing and build your experience – ropes, draws, trad racks, ice racks, etc.

The Basics

These are the same for DMC, Ledyard, CnT... to be any sort of leader, you need these.

- **Risk Management:** offered once a term, will be blitzed out. Does not expire, so there's no reason not to do it soon.
- **Group Dynamics:** same as Risk Management.
- **First Aid:** Up-to-date certification. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) is frequently offered – watch blitz for dates. WFR is more advanced, and more useful for outdoor jobs. WFR courses can be organized at Dartmouth if you talk to OPO in advance.
- **CPR:** Offered frequently through Dartmouth EMS – watch blitz. Takes a single afternoon. Do it, and keep your certification up to date.
- **Van Driver:** Everyone loves a driver. Bring your driver's license to Kathy Decato in Robinson Hall to get the process going. There's an online course to do (painless) and a short driving test. Bonus points for becoming a bus driver (bus drivers are *absolutely invaluable* on most multi-day trips).

You've done the basics. Here's how to become a DMC leader. There are five types of leader, in escalating order of experience. With each are the steps you must take to be certified.

1. **Toprope Leader**

- Co-lead a trip in which you yourself set toprope anchors using gear and natural protection (sport climbing anchors DO NOT COUNT).
- We suggest taking an instructional course (be it AMGA, trad climbing, or any other course that discusses the fine art of anchor-building).
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2. **Sport Leader**

- Co-lead a beginner trip to Rumney. The current leader will vouch for you abilities.
- Be comfortable (read: quick and efficient) leading 5.10a.
- *Note:* you do not have to be a toprope leader to become a sport leader.

3. Trad Leader

- Climb with a current trad leader. They will check your ability to lead safely and efficiently, your knowledge of anchors, and your systems management.
- Be supremely comfortable leading multipitch 5.8 trad. You must be confident on a variety of rock features beyond those encountered in sport climbing, and be familiar with a variety of anchor situations. In short, you need experience.

4. Ice Toprope Leader

- Co-lead a beginner ice trip, in which you set up the toprope anchors.
- Demonstrate to the current leader a sound knowledge and judgment of ice conditions, and an ability to teach safe, good climbing form to beginners.
- *Note:* you do not need to be a sport or trad leader prior to becoming an ice toprope leader.

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5. Ice Leader

- You must be a trad leader.
- You must climb with current ice leader. They will check your ability to lead safely and efficiently, with an eye toward protection, anchor-building, conditions assessment, and systems.
- You must be confident leading ice. Ice leaders don't fall.

Important

Once you have completed the steps to become a leader – be it toprope, sport, trad or ice – contact the current DMC chairs (blitz “climb”). They will schedule a meeting in which you, the current leader who has vouched for you, the chairs, and Brian Kunz (our club's contact in OPO) discuss what you've done, and your qualifications. At that point, you will be a certified leader. This process repeats for every new leadership role you acquire.

If you have questions about what is expected of a DMC leader, it's best to talk to current leader. At its simplest, the club expects you to be involved, leading at least a single trip every term you are on, and using your gear privileges to help train up and coming leaders in whatever capacity (sport, trad, ice, top roping) you can.