

Leadership Training – Why should *you* take it?

There are several reasons to take Leadership Training (LT). Obviously if you want to become a Leader for SEM/AMC... LT is the place to start. Even if you want to lead trips for a different organization, taking LT with SEM will provide you with the basic knowledge of planning and executing trips.

But what if you don't, at least any time soon, see yourself as an AMC Leader? Does that mean you shouldn't take LT? I would strongly argue that even if you don't want to be a Leader, you should still take LT. Why? To become an educated participant. As a Leader, the more people on a trip have taken LT the easier it will be to lead the trip. First of all, the more people that understand all the things that a Leader has to think about during a trip, the fewer people asking questions, or making suggestions that really aren't practical. And, if the Leader misses something (Hey, look at those dark clouds over there... moving this way. Or... Wow, it's getting late, and we aren't heading back towards the cars yet.) the more likely someone else will notice and bring it to the Leader's attention. And, the more help the Leader can get, the easier it is to be a Leader. And, and this is where everyone benefits, because the easier and more enjoyable Leading is, the more trips Leaders will offer! So, even if you don't want to lead anytime soon, take LT, and volunteer to help your activity Leader. Volunteer to sweep, or lead a stretch, so your Leader can drop to the middle of the group and talk to all the different participants. AMC is a volunteer organization. Only by participants stepping up and saying "I'll help." do we get to do *any* activities. ☺

And if you *do* want to be a Leader? *Great!* You will find that leading activities can be very rewarding. As a Leader you get to pick where and when you are going, how far, and at what pace. (Do you find our trips too fast, or too slow? Not at a convenient time? Too big a group size? Offer what *you* want, and I bet you will find there are others wanting that too! See: Borderland Full Moon hikes, and Red Line the Blue Hills, two activities I started because I thought they would be fun. Apparently I was right about that!) And, since they are your activities, you get to run them the way you think they should be run. And let's face it 99.99% of AMC participants are great folks, and you'll get to meet more of them. As a bonus, you get to hang around with the other Leaders, and (OK, I *may* be a little prejudiced here) AMC Leaders are the cream of the crop of AMC people. ☺

OK a story. Once upon a time I met someone who took LT. That person didn't then volunteer to CL any hikes, so I called, and after a couple messages left we finally talked and that person agreed to CL a hike at Borderland. Then became a local Leader, and a NH Leader, and then a winter NH Leader, and then a Major Excursions (now Adventure Travel) Leader. Then that person started their own company leading trips up Kilimanjaro. Take Leadership Training, you never know where it will take *you!*

This one day training may be the start of something exciting. Sign up now.

Bob Vogel (4/9/19)