

How to become a Technical Trip Leader (TTL) with the Northern Colorado CMC

January 2026

The procedures and guidelines below are for the Northern Colorado CMC Trip Leaders who want to lead technical climbing trips for the CMC:

- Be a **current CMC Trip Leader** in good standing.
(If you are not currently a trip leader, please contact the NoCo Leadership and Safety Director about becoming a trip leader.)
- Have the **mountain skills** adequate for the discipline for which approval is sought. See the links below for the four activity standards.
 - a. [Sport climbing](#)
 - b. [Trad / Multi-pitch rock climbing](#)
 - c. [Alpine climbing](#)
 - d. [Top Roping – Rock or Ice \(or both\)](#)

At the beginning of each standard, you will find a description of the scope and terrain covered by each discipline.

- Submit an application (see below) to the NoCo CMC Technical Trip Leader Committee and receive approval to proceed to the next step.
- Complete an assessment to evaluate your understanding of the standards for the appropriate area of climbing. At this time the NoCo CMC Technical Trip Leader Committee (TTLC) will evaluate your application and decide if you should proceed to the next step. Note that there is not a separate assessment for the Top Roping Standard.
- Regardless of experience, a Technical Trip Leader In Training (LIT) will plan, manage, and demonstrate good technical and leadership skills on at least one technical trip, with an approved Technical Trip Leader Evaluator acting as a co-leader, and receive a positive evaluation for the discipline(s) covered by the technical LIT trip.
- Receive approval from the NoCo Council. Note that the Technical Trip Leader Committee will make a recommendation to the Council and the Council will make the final decision on approving TTLs.

How to apply

- The Technical Trip Leader Application can be found at <https://forms.gle/kkJNRRU3xbWZrvM9A>
- Candidates take an assessment to evaluate their understanding of the standards for the area in which they are applying. You will be contacted by a member of the TTLC.
- The TTLC will review the application (including your climbing resume and the assessment) and will vote on applications regularly. If approved to move forward in the process, the candidate will be notified to schedule a Technical Leader in Training Trip.
- A Technical Leader In Training Trip (TLIT) will be scheduled with applicants, based on availability of evaluators. The TTLC will provide the candidate a list of approved Technical Trip Leader Evaluators and contact information with whom they can communicate to arrange a TLIT trip. Applicants seeking approval in multiple disciplines are encouraged to complete TLIT trips with different Technical Trip Leader Evaluators to benefit from different perspectives,

insights, and feedback.

Staying Current

- TTLs agree that they will lead trips at or below their current level of ability.
- TTLs must maintain standards that apply to Trip Leaders statewide. (WFA, Avalanche/AIARE, etc.). These are outlined in the State Trip Leader Manual.
- TTLs will stay up to date on current CMC trip and operating policies.
- TTLs must at a minimum complete one of the following annually:
 - a. Instructor (Senior or Assistant) participation in relevant CMC education course (e.g. ASC or BMC)
 - b. Completion of outside course or certification (e.g. AMGA)
 - c. Leading *or co-leading* a technical trip in the activity or activities that the leader is approved (i.e. alpine, sport, or trad). This trip is preferred to be an official CMC trip, but the leader can submit a trip report for a non-CMC trip to TTL Committee for review/approval.

FAQs:

Q: I still have questions... who may I contact?

A: Please contact a TTL Committee member: Dean Allison (dallison@frii.com), Kurt Taylor (kurttaylor607@gmail.com); or the Leadership and Safety Director for the NoCo Council.