

How to become a Denver Group Technical Trip Leader (TTL)

1. Be a **current CMC Trip Leader** in good standing with your CMC regional Group, **OR** complete Leadership School, including online and scenarios training, possess a current Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification, then complete a technical LIT trip.
2. Have the mountain skills adequate to lead trips in the desired discipline. Note that Sport, Trad, and Ice Lead refer to single pitch climbs; the discipline badge may be modified by earning a Multi Pitch badge. Also rock badges are organized in a hierarchy, Trad>Sport>Top Rope, with each higher badge including the badges below it. Alpine includes snow, alpine ice, scrambling, and may include short sections of low fifth class climbing. The typical experience and the required skills are described in the following **Activity Standards** [Each of the following headings should be links to the Activity standards, which should be downloadable.]:
 - a. Top Rope rock and/or ice climbing
 - b. Sport climbing
 - c. Traditional rock climbing
 - d. Multi-pitch climbing
 - e. Ice Lead climbing
 - f. Alpine climbing
3. Submit an application to the Denver Group Technical Climbing School Committee and receive approval as a Technical Trip "Leader in Training (LIT)".
4. **Regardless of experience**, a Technical Trip Leader in Training (Technical LIT) shall complete a Technical LIT trip. The Technical LIT trip shall satisfy the requirements outlined following, as well as fulfill the requirement of an LIT for a CMC Leader badge. The Leader in Training will plan, manage, and demonstrate good technical and leadership skills on at least one technical trip, with an approved Technical Trip Mentor Leader acting as a co-leader, and receive a positive evaluation for the specific technical trip classification. Additional co-leads may be needed to demonstrate competency in critical technical and leadership skills. The following **evaluation forms** outline the categories and standards on which candidates will be evaluated. [Each of the following headings should be links to the evaluation form, which should be downloadable.]
 - a. Top Rope rock and/or ice climbing
 - b. Sport climbing
 - c. Traditional rock climbing
 - d. Multi-pitch climbing
 - e. Ice Lead climbing
 - f. Alpine climbing

5. Receive approval from the Denver Group Technical Climbing School Committee who reviews and approves TTL applications on a rolling basis for the Denver Group Leadership Committee.

How to apply

The Denver Group Technical Trip Leader Application can be found at [cmc.org>members>leader resources>Denver group forms](#):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpZRzvexzgEcqal_AdgyAg1ndk_ICtOFGJpQBXfpDKALR5uA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link

- The Denver Group TCS Committee will review applications on a rolling basis, or at least monthly.
- Technical Trip Leader In Training (LIT)/co-led technical trips will be scheduled with applicants, as available. A list of Technical Mentor Leaders can be found [here](#) [this should be a link to the list of Denver Mentor Leaders]. The TCS Committee will assist applicants with finding a Mentor Leader and scheduling an LIT trip, if necessary. Applicants who do Technical LIT Trips in multiple disciplines are encouraged to do them with different Technical Menor Leaders for the benefit of receiving different insights and feedback.
- Applicants who desire to lead trips in more than one technical discipline, are encouraged to schedule a co-lead that combines them.
 - Example 1: a candidate competent in leading multi pitch trad climbing may complete a multi pitch trad LIT trip to qualify to lead trad and sport single or multi pitch climbs, as well as top rope rock trips.
 - Example 2: a candidate who wants to lead rock and ice top rope trips may schedule an ice top rope LIT, which qualifies him or her to lead ice or rock top rope trips, whereas leading a rock top rope trip would require an additional climb or co-led trip to establish competency in an ice climbing environment.

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Staying Current

1. TTLs agree that they will lead trips at or below their current level of ability.
2. TTLs must maintain standards that apply to Trip Leaders statewide. (WFA, Avalanche/AIARE, etc.). These are outlined in the State Trip Leader Manual available online.
3. TTLs will stay up to date on current CMC trip and operating policies.
4. **TTLs must lead a technical level trip once every year for State to retain TTL status. This trip can be offered to the general membership OR a trip while teaching in CMC Schools.**

Adding Technical Trips to www.cmc.org

Trip posting privileges are enabled by staff when the CMC Trip Leader badge is assigned. Difficulties with accessing trip creation software should be addressed with office staff and reported to the Mentor Leader who led the Technical LIT trip.

FAQs:

Q: What if I'm already a Denver Group trip leader? Is there anything else I need to do?

A: As of June, 2025, those who were grandfathered in to State Technical Leader privileges are granted Denver Group Technical Leadership privileges. Current Denver Group leaders must successfully complete an appropriate LIT trip.

Q: I'm a Denver Group member, but I'm only interested in leading technical trips. What does this mean for me?

A: This is ok! You still need to take Trip Leader School, have current WFA, and Avalanche Education (if applicable), etc. Once Leadership School, including online and scenarios training, has been completed and other credentials are current, a technical LIT trip may be completed to fulfil the LIT requirement for both the technical discipline badge and the CMC Trip Leader badge.

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

A: Please contact TCS Committee member: [Brian Le Blanc](#)
Or CMC Education Director [Graham Ottley](#)