

Walk Leader

Purpose of role

To share your love of walking and provide opportunities for people to walk in a safe, welcoming group.

Duties

Before you agree to lead a walk

- Be familiar with the expectations and responsibilities of Walk Leaders to be able to offer a friendly, safe and enjoyable walk
- Understand the terms of the insurance cover.

Planning the walk

- Liaise with your Group's Walks Co-ordinator to choose a walk that is suitable for the programme and that complements other walks in the programme. Ideally each programme will have a good variety of walks. You will need to consider things such as distance, terrain and accessibility of start and finish points.
- Agree the date for the walk so that it can be published in the walks programme and remain committed to it.
- Provide details of the walk to your Group's Programme Co-ordinator in the required format to enable the walk to be publicised
- Familiarise yourself with the route before leading the walk, looking out particularly for hazards, places where it is easy to miss a turning, good places to stop for rests or shelter, and refreshment en route.

On the day of the walk

- Be responsible for leading the party of walkers, ensuring their safety and enjoyment at all times. Use and follow the Walk Leader's checklist.
- Deal with any questions and issues with good humour and patience.
- Enjoy it yourself and make sure you thank everyone for coming!

Skills and experience

- A passion for walking and an affinity with all the charitable aims of the Ramblers
- Previous experience of walking in the environment that you would like to lead in
- Good communication in order to welcome walkers, and give clear guidance and instruction throughout the walk.
- Ability to keep a group together & remain calm during unforeseen circumstances

Support available

Existing Walk Leaders are always available to give support and advice. Many Walk Leaders take their first walks under the guidance of another experienced leader. Some Groups already offer navigation and first aid training. The Led Walks Team will start to offer training and support for new leaders in the future.

Further information is available from the Led Walks Team.
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