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MOUNTAIN SKILLS WEEKENDS - 2008
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Sunday 3 February (pre-meet 9.00am - midday)
Friday 8 February to Sunday 10th February (skills weekend)

Sunday 27 April (pre-meet 9.00am-midday)
Friday 9 to Sunday 11 May (skills weekend)

Do you want to improve your mountain skills?	Yes!
Do you want to enjoy the company of like minded people?	Yes!
These weekends are fantastic fun based in the heart of Snowdonia run from the well equipped GLSW mountain base!	

These weekends are run by GLSW and the Surrey Scout County, and are open to all Scout Association members over the age of 16; they will be run from the GLSW County Base in Bethesda on the edge of Snowdonia National Park, North Wales.

There weekends are aimed at those who have a general interest in hillwalking, also those who may want to develop their skills further to lead parties in the hills and acquire activity permits (the new authorisations).

These weekends would be of value to Explorers wishing to extend their skills base to become leaders and potentially also to obtain an activity permit

The programme structure is flexible and will depend upon the skills training required by the participants themselves, it is hoped this will be fully discussed and covered at the pre-meet (please ensure that the relevant form section is fully completed so as to let us know what you want from the weekend).

Mountain skills covered over the weekend could include the following:



- A general and practical introduction to the many aspects of mountain walking
- Leader responsibilities, when taking young people into the hills. Awareness and understanding of group management. The additional technical skills leadership requires
- Route planning and navigation, techniques required to navigate safely off main paths, and in wild country. Additional navigation skills under poor conditions and during the winter months (February weekend only).
- How to move safely with a group over steep or mixed ground.
- Group supervision and monitoring.
- Training and guidance for those wishing to make a start on the Walking Group Leader or Mountain Leader Awards.
- Building experience/log book by; acting as assistant leader, using skills previously gained, or exploring unfamiliar routes.
- Assessment for the scout permit scheme can also be taken over the weekend (terrains one and two). Notification must be given when the weekend application form is returned, and the authorisation/permit scheme form, must be completed and returned prior to the pre-meet. This is to ensure that the applicant is properly briefed by the assessor and arrives properly prepared.

The pre-meet mornings spend time covering the skills syllabus including the Scout Association's requirements to obtain an activity permit.

The cost of the weekend will be £60, cheques should be made payable to **G.L.S.W. Scout Training Account**. Applicants are advised to enquire at once of their D.C. regarding the availability of grant aid, payment of grant aid may be dependent upon submitting an application prior to the weekend.

Applications should be made on the attached form; places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your booking confirmation, which will include a location map for the pre-meet.

Please note that weekends in the mountains can be physically demanding, participants should be fit enough to sustain and enjoy a full programme, this would be particularly relevant to the February weekend.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Ian Tombleson
(County Advisor - Hillwalking Activities)