Scouts Berkshire

Eryri/Snowdonia Hillwalking Weekend

23rd-24th January 2027, Porth Penrhyn

The ever-popular Eryri/Snowdonia trip is back! We will be staying at the Clogwyn Centre at Porth Penrhyn. Porth Penrhyn was the former port and main export route for Penrhyn Quarry, formerly the largest slate quarry in the world.

Training and assessment opportunities are on offer or feel free to use it as a base to get in some QMDs (quality mountain days). Food and indoor accommodation is included, though lunch isn't provided.

Programme

Saturday will be at least a six-hour walk, the altitude and difficulty of which will depend on the weather conditions and the group experience. Whilst dinner is being prepared on Saturday there will be a night navigation exercise on offer for those that want it. Sunday will be shorter to enable everyone to get back home by the evening.

Food

A snack will be provided on Friday when you arrive. Breakfast on both days will be provided as will Saturday dinner. Please bring a packed lunch for both days. Please put any dietary needs in the online form (see below). Breakfasts this year will be cereal and pastries.

Venue

Clogwyn Centre is run by Mersey Weaver Scout District and is located right on the coast at Porth Penrhyn, just outside of Bangor. The hut is well equipped with bunk beds, hot showers, WiFi, a drying room, pool table, TV, climbing wall, meeting rooms and two (!) kitchens. The centre is located here right at the entrance to Porth Penrhyn.

The centre will probably be open from about 19:00 though most arrive from 21:00 onwards. For all those keen beavers that like to get a day on the hills in on Friday that may be arriving before everyone else a code for the lock box will be available closer to the time.

Prerequisites

Within the constraints of staff numbers and the number of courses we're running we will try to stream people into groups based on experience. Even so we have the following general prerequisites to make sure you get the most out of the weekend.

For Terrain 1 training there are no real prerequisites beyond some passion for and experience walking in the hills - so you roughly know what to expect, what to bring and what to wear – particularly in the colder and wetter months of the year.

For Terrain 2 training you must be capable of using a map and compass as we won't be teaching the basics. We will be refining your existing navigation skills and teaching more advanced navigation techniques. No steep ground or ropework experience is required.

Assessment candidates should appraise themselves against the Scout's assessment checklist and may find the far more comprehensive Mountain Training skills checklists useful. Use the Hill and Moorland Leader Skills Checklist for Terrain 1 and the Mountain Leader Skills Checklist for Terrain 2.

Those wishing to go on a QMD don't need to be experts or even ready for an assessment but should be competent navigators and happy in the hills. The aim of a QMD is to consolidate and practise your skills.

Cost

This year's trip is £60 per person. There is some financial support for those who are coming for training or assessment, details can be found here: berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/activity-funding

You can pay by cheque or bank transfer. Post cheques to "Berkshire County Scout Council" (ask for the address) or bank transfer to 40-52-40 00019073 using "Eryri-yoursurname" as the reference. Please let me know (contact details below) and send a screenshot if possible when you bank transfer the cash as I don't have access to that account.

Paperwork and Reservation

To confirm your place, you must complete this online booking form and **send your payment before the 11th December**. Places are limited to a first come first served basis. As we've wasted a lot of time in previous years chasing late payers you will need to have both paid and completed the form to be considered for a place. If you only fill in the form you may lose your place (without warning) to someone that books after you but has paid.

Weather

As this is a training weekend for adults who wish to take on a leadership role in a demanding environment, the event is unlikely to be cancelled due to poor weather. You are expected to be experienced and comfortable in poor weather at assessment so it will be good experience. This said, obviously the activities will be adjusted if weather makes certain routes foolhardy or dangerous with the final decision resting with the instructors. However, if there is heavy snowfall it may not be possible to complete a fair hillwalking assessment due to navigational challenges.

What to Bring

Please see the end of this document for a suggested kit list. For those on assessment please pack your rucksack as if you were leading a group for the weekend. We can lend ropes and bothy bags out if you don't have access to them.

Transport

We rely on most people making their own travel arrangements. To make things easier if you need a lift or have some spare seats, please let us know on the booking form and I'll put you all in contact with each other. Budget for about £40 to cover your driver's fuel (your driver will confirm). Give this money to them, not us.

Training and Assessment Candidates

Please can **all training and assessment candidates** email a logbook to Ralph by **11th December**. This will give the staff a few weeks before the trip to get through all the logbooks. We have put some comprehensive logbook guidance under Related Content on our website https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/hillwalking-unit/

There is no required format for a logbook, see our guidance for more information.

Please can the **assessment candidates** complete the following and email them to Ralph, again the deadline is **11th December**.

1. The theory paper at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dvZ0fENbOM-iD8EGezfczKM1VTbwXBTE (but only questions 1-4).
2. A risk assessment for hill walking (appropriate to your target permit)
3. A route card - this doesn't need to be specific to your target permit

With the last two, we only want you to demonstrate that you can do them. So there's no need to do one especially for us. If you've already got a route card from a hike you did in the Chiltern's over the summer, dust it down and send it in. Likewise, if you have a risk assessment for a hike in the Brecon Beacons and you're going for a Terrain 1 permit assessment - send it in! Feel free to modify them if you want. We do not require a specific format for either route cards or risk assessments. If you want to start from scratch then there's a route plan on scouts.org.uk and risk assessment guidance.

Cancellation

If the event is cancelled then all unspent monies will be returned. If you pull out then I will try to get a replacement but if I cannot then you will forfeit your fee.

Risk Assessments

This weekend has multiple risk assessments depending on weather conditions and activity. Please review these:

Hillwalking
Winter hillwalking
Scrambling

These risk assessments (and others) are also available at
berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/hillwalking-unit

Organiser Contact Details

Ralph Delaney, ralph.delaney@epnscouts.org.uk

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Hillwalking Equipment List (This list is not exhaustive)

- Walking boots
- Waterproof top and bottoms
- Warm clothing
    - Fleece tops
    - Quick drying trousers (e.g. polyester or nylon. No jeans.)
      Either bring warm trousers or legging-type base layer to go under your trousers.
    - Quick drying t-shirts (e.g. polyester or nylon. No cotton.)
    - Include spares for on the hill.
- Hat and gloves and spares
- Those on Terrain 2 training or assessment: an old jacket you don't mind potentially getting damaged during the ropework aspects of the syllabus.
- Day sack - 30-40l e.g. large enough for personal plus leader equipment
- Compass (We have a few spares)
- Head torch
- Personal first aid kit
- Toilet roll, lighter and trowel (leader kit)
- Survival bag
- Whistle
- Water (min. 2 litres)
- Emergency rations
- Maps*
- Map case or zip lock freezer bag if using the printed maps
- Lunch for both days

Optional equipment:

- Gaiters
- GPS
- Altimeter
- Bothy bag
- Walking rope
- Thermos flask

Overnight Equipment

- Sleeping bag (2/3 season) and pillow. Mattresses are provided
- Optional: ear plugs and those nifty little eye masks to deal with the person that just *has* to turn on the light at some ungodly hour.
- NB. Cutlery and crockery is provided.

*To cover the local area the relevant maps are:

- Ordnance Survey Explorer OL17 or;
- Ordnance Survey Landranger 115 or;
- Harvey Superwalker XT25 Snowdonia North or;
- Harvey British Mountain Map North Snowdonia.

Please feel free to email me or drop me a message in our Facebook group if you have any questions.
facebook.com/groups/berkshire.scouts.hillwalking