



**BOSTON**  
**APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB**

## Volunteer-Led Activities

AMC Boston Chapter Mountaineering Committee

June 2022



# Session Agenda

- **AMC Orientation**
  - Club, Chapter, Committee
  - Activities and Leaders
- **BCMC Activities**
  - Rules of the Road
  - Activity Types
- **BCMC Activity Leaders**
  - Benefits
  - Clarifications
  - Development
- **Q&A / Wrap-Up**



# AMC Orientation



# What is the Appalachian Mountain Club?

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Formed in 1876, the non-profit ***Appalachian Mountain Club*** (AMC) is the oldest conservation organization in the United States. The mission of the AMC is to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors.

As of 2020, the AMC claimed more than 400,000 members, advocates and supporters who provide a base of ***volunteers*** for trail projects, local clean-up and conservation projects, outdoor education and safety instruction.

In addition, AMC volunteers provide the local governance structure for the twelve AMC ***Chapters***, and organize and lead thousands of recreational ***Activities*** each year.



# What is an AMC “Chapter”?

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An AMC **Chapter** is a geo-located volunteer-led organizational unit. There are currently twelve AMC Chapters:

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Maine</li><li>● New Hampshire</li><li>● <b>Boston</b></li><li>● Southeastern Massachusetts</li><li>● Worcester</li><li>● Western Massachusetts</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Narragansett</li><li>● Connecticut</li><li>● Mohawk Hudson</li><li>● New York - North Jersey</li><li>● Delaware Valley</li><li>● Potomac</li></ul> |
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\* Boston is the largest AMC Chapter, with approximately 25,000 affiliated club members



# What is an AMC “Committee”?

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An AMC **Committee** is a volunteer-led unit within AMC which, among other responsibilities, produces **Activities** for AMC members and the broader community.

AMC Committees can exist at the Club or Chapter level.

AMC Committees can exist from days to decades.

Additional Committee responsibilities include:

1. Policy development
2. Cross-organization collaboration inside and outside of AMC
3. Community representation/advocacy
4. AMC **Activity Leader** development



# What is an AMC “Activity”?

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An official AMC **Activity** is an experience produced by a Chapter or Committee that qualifies for coverage via the AMC’s liability insurance policy.

An official AMC **Activity** is published in the AMC’s [Activity Database](#), with an assigned **Activity Leader**.

Activities may be free to participants, or they may require a fee.

Refer to the AMC’s [Outdoor Leader Handbook](#) for more information.



# What is an AMC “Activity Leader”?

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An AMC **Activity Leader** is an active AMC member who has been approved by an Activity Committee to deliver an **Activity** produced by that committee.

Generally speaking, an AMC Leader must:

- 1) Be 18 or older.
- 2) Be a current member of the AMC, in good standing.
- 3) Acknowledge review of the AMC Outdoor Leader Handbook.
- 4) Attend some form of Activity Leader Training.
- 5) Meet additional requirements defined by the Chapter and/or Committee.

If these criteria are met, then the Leader qualifies for the AMC’s liability coverage.





# What is the “Boston Mountaineering Committee”?

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The **AMC Boston Chapter Mountaineering Committee** (BCMC) has been an official volunteer-led unit of the Boston Chapter for 50 years (est. 1973!)

The AMC BCMC has a rich history of producing conservation, recreation, and education activities for the Northeast climbing community.

The BCMC’s most popular activities are the annual Spring Rock Program and Winter Ice Program, however the BCMC normally produces more than 100 activities each year.

# BCMC: Organizational Structure/Roles (We're Hiring!)

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- **Committee Members**

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Members at Large

- **Activity Volunteers**

- Activity Leaders
- Activity Co-Leaders
- Activity Organizers
- Activity Instructors
- Activity Assistants

- **Activity Participants**

- AMC Members
- Non-Members

- **Committee Member Focus Areas**

- Communications and Outreach
- Climbing Activities
- Educational Activities
- Social Activities
- Instructional Programs
- SendHers Programming
- Partnerships
- Conservation and Access
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Infrastructure & Services
- Liaison, Boston Chapter Leadership Committee
- Liaison, Interchapter Climbing Committee
- Liaison, Harvard Cabin Committee



# BCMC: Our Boston Mountaineering Community

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- Boston Mountaineering Community
- Boston Mountaineering Volunteers
- [SendHers](#) Community
- Indoor Climbing Enthusiasts
- Bouldering Enthusiasts
- Rock Climbing Enthusiasts
- Ice Climbing Enthusiasts
- Alpine Climbing Enthusiasts
- Mountain Conservation Enthusiasts



The background of the slide features a series of misty, layered mountain ranges in shades of light blue and grey, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The mountains are soft and ethereal, with some peaks more prominent than others. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered horizontally and vertically on the slide, containing the main title.

# BCMC Activities



# BCMC Activities: Rules of the Road

- BCMC Activities are generally required to break even on costs.
- All BCMC Activities must be published in the AMC's online [Activity Database](#).
- BCMC Activities may also be posted at [AMCBostonClimbers.com](http://AMCBostonClimbers.com) and the [AMC Boston Mountaineering Facebook Page](#).
- All BCMC Activities are open to both AMC members and non-members.
- All BCMC Activities are diverse, equitable, and inclusive, to practical extent. ([AMC DEI Guide](#))





# BCMC Activities: Main BCMC Activity Types

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**Community Social Gatherings (CSG)**

**Community Gym Sessions (GYM)**

**Community Crag Days (CCD)**

**Community Adventure Weekends (CAW)**

**Community Instructional Programs (PGM)**





# BCMC Activities: Community Social Gatherings (CSG)

Community Social Gatherings (CSGs) are planned Activities designed to bring the Boston climbing community together, but do not feature any sort of physical/in-person climbing experiences. You just have to like climbing/mountaineering (and people).

- BCMC budgets for one CSG activity each month.
- CSGs can be in-person or virtual, free or paid, depending on the context.
- Examples include casual get-togethers, planned parties, presentations and lectures, movies and film festivals, and online/virtual events.
- The Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.
- Budgeted expenses include group snacks/drinks (no alcohol), venue/room fees, speaker fees/honorariums, and discounted group/block seat advances.





# BCMC Activities: Community Gym Sessions (GYM)

Community Gym Sessions (GYMs) are planned Activities designed to provide the community with physical/in-person climbing experiences in a managed, accessible, indoor environment featuring a social element.

- BCMC budgets for one GYM activity each month.
- GYM activities do not typically require a participation fee on top of the base gym fee. Additional services may require additional participant fees.
- Some gyms may offer activity-oriented discounts (eg 20% off gym passes for AMC members), be sure to inquire when organizing/scheduling the GYM Activity.
- Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.
- Budgeted expenses include purchases of Activity Leader gym passes and group snacks/food.







# BCMC Activities: Community Crag Days (CCD)

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Community Crag Days (CCDs) are planned Activities designed to provide the community with single-day physical/in-person climbing experiences in an outdoor environment, featuring social and active conservation elements.

- BCMC budgets for one CCD each month.
- CCDs feature one or more top-rope setups to facilitate socializing and community bonding. BCMC has top-rope gear to utilize. Activity Leaders do not need to set up the top-ropes.
- Participants must provide their own helmets, harnesses, shoes, belay devices, and personal gear. BCMC has some to lend.
- CCDs normally incorporate area cleanups, trail/access work, and other conservation-oriented components.
- CCDs do not typically require a participation fee. If a participation fee is required, the Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.
- Budgeted expenses include purchases of conservation supplies, group management supplies, and group snacks/food.





# BCMC Activities: Common CCD Locations

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## Rock CCD Locations

- Quincy Quarries
- Hanging Mountain
- Hammond Pond
- Black & White Rocks
- Waites Mountain
- Lynn Woods
- Calvary Boulder Field
- Red Rocks
- Rumney

## Ice CCD Locations

- Auburn
- Rumney
- Kinsman Notch
- Champney Falls
- Texaco Amphitheater
- Frankenstein Cliff
- Arethusa Falls
- Trollville
- Cathedral (North End)



# BCMC Activities: Community Adventure Weekends (CAW)

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Community Adventure Weekends (CAWs) are planned Activities designed to provide the community with multi-day physical/in-person climbing (and/or other) experiences in an outdoor environment.

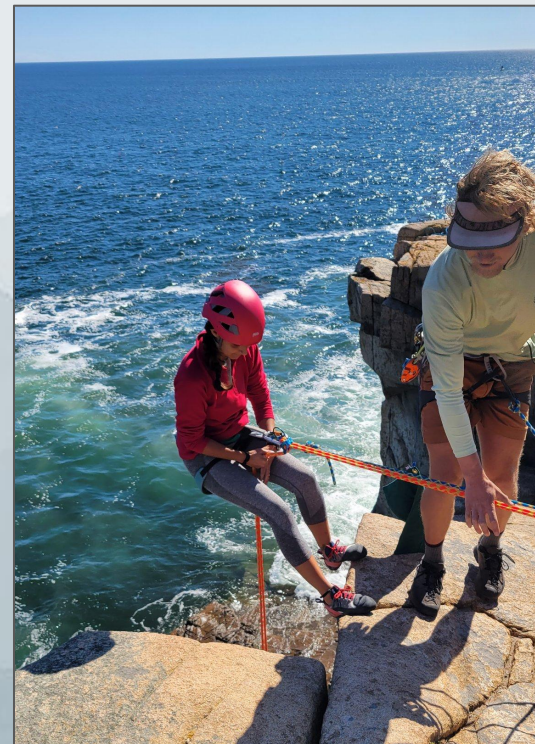
- BCMC generally plans for one CAW each month.
- CAW activities typically require a participation fee to break-even on costs.
- CAW activities may offer trip/partner coordination tools including email groups and planning sheets, or they may simply serve as a general base of operations for the community to undertake their own adventures.
- BCMC can provide top-roping gear. Participants must provide their own helmets, harnesses, shoes, belay devices, and personal gear. BCMC has some to lend.
- Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.
- Budgeted expenses include purchases of facility/site rentals, group snacks/meals, and general activity-related incidentals.





# BCMC Activities: Common CAW Themes/Locations

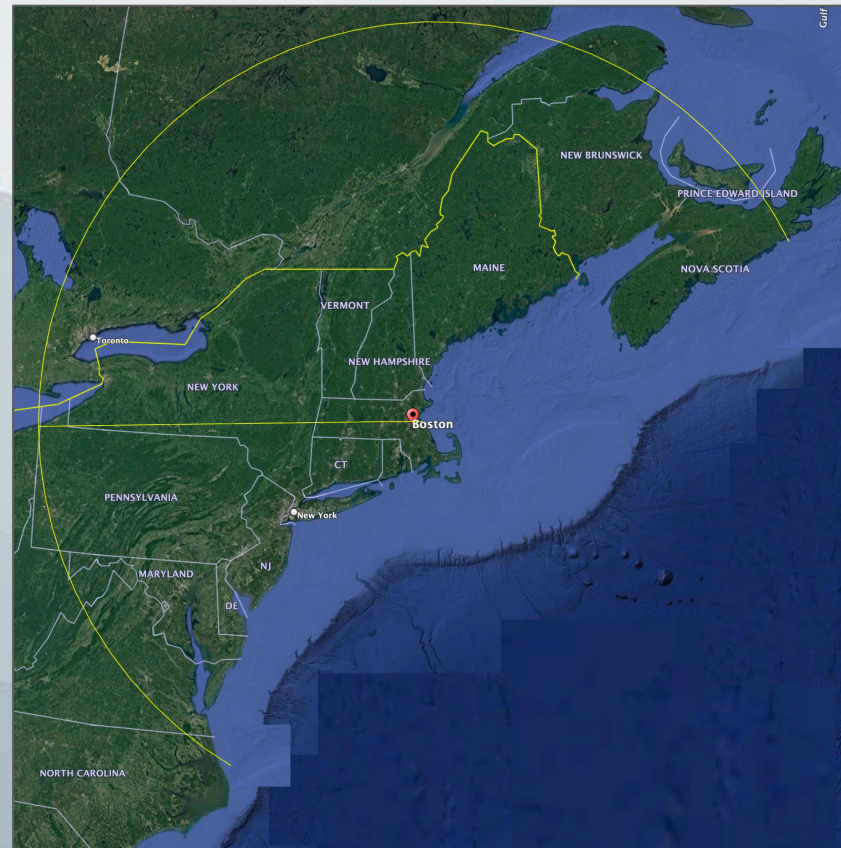
- **January:** Ice Season Jumpstart Weekend (North Conway)
- **February:** Ice Season Full-Swing Weekend (North Conway)
- **February:** SendHers Ice / Double-Header Weekend (North Conway)
- **March:** Ice Season Meltdown Weekend (North Conway)
- **April:** Spring Rock Program (No CAWs)
- **May:** New Seconds Weekend (Gunks)
- **May:** Acadia Weekend
- **June:** Rumney Weekend
- **July:** Adirondacks Weekend
- **August:** Summer Rendezvous Weekend (North Conway)
- **September:** Fall Frolic Weekend (Gunks)
- **October:** (THEME/LOCATION NEEDED)
- **November:** (THEME/LOCATION NEEDED)
- **December:** Ice Season Dust-Off Weekend (North Conway)





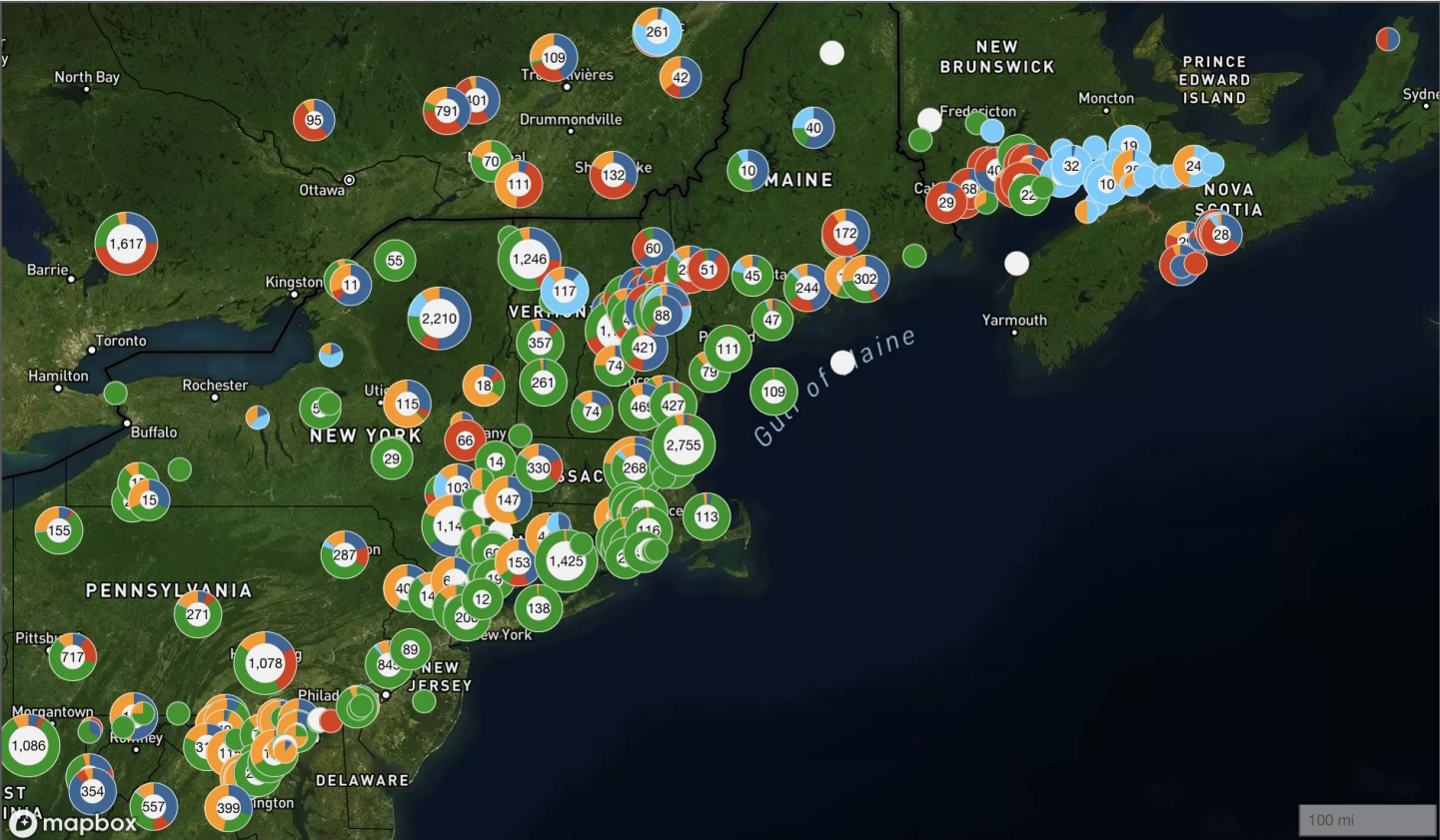
# BCMC Activities: Possible CAW Locations

- The AMC liability policy covers sanctioned activities delivered within a 500-mile radius of Boston
  - New England
  - Mid-Atlantic
  - Southern Quebec
  - Eastern Ontario
  - Maritime Provinces
- Preference is for activities to have a mountaineering/climbing theme, but we are open to cool ideas.
- Generally, if you can plan it, manage it, and (safely) deliver it, we will help you do it!





# BCMC Activities: Possible CAW Locations



# BCMC Activities: Community Instructional Programs (PGM)

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Community Instructional Programs (PGMs) are planned Activities designed to provide the community with developmental, multi-weekend, physical/in-person climbing experiences in an outdoor environment.

- BCMC ordinarily organizes two PGMs per year – Spring Rock Program and Winter Ice Program. Additional PGMs have been delivered (eg, “Gym to Crag”, “Rusty Seconds”)
- PGM activities require a participation fee to cover costs. Scholarships are available for participants. Participants must provide their own helmets, harnesses, shoes, belay devices, and personal gear. BCMC has some to lend.
- PGM activities typically feature volunteer-led climbing instruction and coordination support, including instructor:student climbing matchups.
- PGM Activity Leaders are called “Program Directors”, and are responsible for assembling program organizing teams, coordinating volunteers, securing venues, and ensuring successful delivery of all instructional elements.
- Budgeted expenses include purchases of organizing team supplies, facility/site rentals, equipment acquisition/maintenance, group meals, lecture materials, party planning, custom giveaway items, instructor accommodation subsidies, and general activity-related incidentals.



# BCMC Activities: Spring Rock Program (PGM:ROCK)

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The annual Spring Rock Program is a volunteer-led instructional experience designed to prepare students to be safe and capable followers for outdoor trad climbs.

- Held in late March, April, and early May
- One evening session
- One full weekend session
- Three single-day weekend sessions.
- Weekend sessions run from 8:15am until approximately 4:30pm.
- Crow Hill Day-Trip
- New Seconds Weekend (CAW)





# BCMC Activities: Winter Ice Program (PGM:ICE)

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The annual Winter Ice Program is a volunteer-led instructional experience designed to prepare students to be safe and capable followers for outdoor ice climbs.

- Held in January and February
- Three evening lectures (Boston)
- Two instructional weekends (North Conway)
- January Jumpstart Weekend (CAW)
- February Full-Swing Weekend (CAW)
- March Meltdown Weekend (CAW)





# BCMC Activities: SendHers Program (SNDR)

- [SendHers](#) is a network of women adventurers and allies within the AMC Boston climbing community.
- Our mission is to promote diversity of all kinds throughout our sport, empower and bring together diverse climbers, and foster development of women and non-binary individuals within our community
- More than a dozen planned activities each year (CSG, GYM, CCD, CAW, PGM, and EDU)
- Activity Leader collaborates with BCMC SendHers Program Director to plan+deliver activities
- Activity Leader or Co-Leader manages participant registration/communications
- Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.





# BCMC Activities: Professional-Led Training (EDU)

- Wilderness First Aid, Advanced Rock/Ice/Lead Skills, Self/Partner-Rescue, Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue, Mental Training, Expedition Planning, AIARE, and more
- Activity Leader collaborates with BCMC Director, Educational Activities to secure venue and negotiate group/discount rate with instructor (gratuity included)
- Activity Leader/Co-Leader manages instructor and participant registration/communications
- Activity Leader may participate in the activity for free.



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# BCMC Activity Leaders



# BCMC Activity Leader: Benefits

- Meet amazing people! See amazing places!
- Explore conservation, education, and recreation themes
- Influence BCMC's activity programming process
- Free/discounted participation in the activities you lead, including training workshops
- Equipment/outfitter discounts and prodeals
- Training subsidies and scholarships
- Liability/insurance coverage
- Professional skill development and CV/resumé reinforcement





# BCMC Activity Leaders: Clarifications

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- There is a lot of confusion between a **BCMC Activity Leader**, and a “lead climber”.
- BCMC Activities are different from the “trips” offered by other committees (eg, Boston H/B), where activity leaders essentially serve as “amateur outdoor guides”.
- BCMC Activity Leaders ARE NOT selected or approved based on climbing abilities (5.10b, WI4, etc.) and/or certifications (WFA, SPI, etc.), although these competencies are valued and development is encouraged.
- BCMC Activity Leaders ARE approved based on competencies related to group management, and activity delivery, as well as community participation and references.
- Nutshell: You DON'T have to climb 5.13c, or WI5, or be an AMGA-certified guide to be a BCMC Activity Leader. You DO have to be organized, engaged, and responsible.
- BCMC Activity Leaders typically begin by **co-leading** activities and grow into **leading** activities over time.



# BCMC Activity Leaders: Responsibilities

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## Activity Leaders:

- HAVE FUN!!!
- Activity planning/production
- Successful activity delivery
- Unexpected activity-related situations
- Post-activity reporting
- Co-leader development and references

## Activity Co-Leaders:

- HAVE FUN!!!
- Participant screening/management
- Venue/site reservation/rental
- Food/meal coordination/order
- Participant engagement/support
- Miscellaneous activity-related incidentals/tasks



# BCMC Activity Leaders: Development Pathway

1. Become an [AMC member](#).
2. Join the [AMC Boston Mountaineering Volunteers](#) list
3. Participate in some activities! Volunteer for some activities!
4. Co-lead at least two activities of a particular type, with two different leaders
5. Apply to lead activities of the same type
6. Co-lead at least two activities of a more complex type, with two different leaders.



## Recommended BCMC Activity Leader Progression

CSG → GYM → CCD → CAW → PGM





## For More Information...

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[volunteers@amcbostonclimbers.com](mailto:volunteers@amcbostonclimbers.com)

<https://www.amcbostonclimbers.com/volunteer>

[AMC BCMC Community Mailing List](#)

[AMC BCMC Volunteer Mailing List](#)

[AMC Outdoor Leader Handbook](#)

[AMC BCMC Activity List](#)

[AMC BCMC Events Calendar](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/AMCBostonMountaineering>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/amcbostonclimbers>



**Thank You!**