



## Mendip Caving Group Cave Leader Application Form

This form is to be completed by two full members, and then returned to the committee. The application should be taken seriously; it should not be regarded as an unnecessary formality. Your life and the reputation of the MCG may depend on the competence of the person you are assessing.

In order to gain unsupervised access to the tacklestore and be able to use MCG equipment a full member must be able to satisfy the two members that they are competent in the areas outlined below. If the candidate needs to be reminded of how to complete any part they should be shown by the full members but asked to reapply and take the assessment again on another day.

Whilst underground the applicant must be able to demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of caves that are suitable for wet weather trips and the dangers of flooding [1]
- How to book out tackle from the tacklestore, how to inspect tackle before use and how to care for this both before, during and after the trip [2]
- Able to leave a call out and the procedures for calling cave rescue [3]
- How to find cave access arrangements [4]
- An awareness of Weils Disease, Hypothermia and Suspension Trauma [5]
- Able to tie basic knots, Bowline, Figure of Eight and Italian Hitch [6]
- Benefits of using a harness for vertical caving [7]
- How to rig a ladder and lifeline using either Italian Hitch or Petzl Stop lifeline and safely lifeline a climber from above and below a pitch [8]
- Knowledge of lifeline calls [9]
- Knowledge of cave conservation and proper regard for their companions and other parties in the cave [10]

	Name	Signature	Date
Applicant			
Full Member 1			
Full Member 2			

## **Guidance Notes for Assessors**

It is important to note the comment that the applicant should be able to demonstrate competence without being shown or told during their assessment.

[1] The applicant should be able to name caves that are liable to flooding and when it would be unwise not to enter them, they should also be aware of how quickly flooding can happen and what to do if caught underground with rising water.

[2] The applicant should be able to demonstrate the points listed with emphasis on checking tackle before use and washing ropes after the trip. They should also be able to explain why these are important!!

[3] Discuss these points with the applicant and leave a call out for the trip

[4] The applicant should know places to find arrangements and not just say, 'ask someone'!

[5] Discuss these points with the applicant

[6] The applicant should be able to demonstrate these knots without assistance

[7] Discuss this and the drawbacks of using a belt.

[8] The lifelining exercise should take place on a recognised pitch and not a climb, a fixed ladder or surface location. The committee may question this before accepting the application.

[9] The applicant should have knowledge of lifeline calls without help or guidance from the assessors.

[10] Discuss these points with the applicant. As a member who is likely to lead trips it is important that the applicant is aware of the importance of stressing conservation issues to others in their party.