

How to become a walk leader for the group

A full and varied programme of walks for the group depends entirely on enough people coming forward to volunteer to lead them. We therefore welcome expressions of interest from potential new leaders and offer a lot of support to develop the skills and confidence to take on the role.

Ramblers offer some very good introductory online courses. You need to have created an online membership account (with password) to access the volunteer portal and then you can see <https://ramblersvolunteertraining-ramblers.talentlms.com/dashboard> for the three mandatory training courses. They are quite short and interesting and provide an excellent introduction to what leading a walk entails and some of the issues you need to think about before leading your first walk.

Once you have completed the three modules, you can be registered as a volunteer walk leader for West London and also given access to the Walks Manager, which is the online tool for entering the details of walks and publishing them on the web-site so potential walkers can find them.

We also provide a lot of ongoing support for new leaders at group level. Probably the most effective and enjoyable way to get a good insight into how to plan a walk and then deliver it on the day is to work with an experienced leader. We actively encourage co-leading and buddying and can put you in touch with someone to support you if you'd like help. We also have a WhatsApp group for leaders which is very useful to arrange recce partners and share ideas and tips among the walk leaders team.

We have a library of books which new leaders are welcome to borrow to get some ideas for possible walks. We also have a group subscription to OS Maps online which is very useful for plotting the route and navigating on the day using your phone. Occasionally, we organise additional training courses such as navigation and first aid to meet the needs of our leaders.

For more information, please email the walks organiser on jackie.gower3@gmail.com