

British Mountaineering Council: Volunteer Role description

Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates

Are you passionate about representing the interests of Mountain Training candidates who are BMC members? Do you want to volunteer for the BMC to share your knowledge and experience whilst working with some great people?

The BMC is looking for a volunteer with energy, commitment and great communication skills to be the new Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates. This is an exciting time for the BMC as it seeks to expand the voice of its members throughout the organisation and this role offers the chance to give something back and be at the forefront of improving grassroots representation.

You would sit on the Members' Council (the Council) and help the Council to deliver its objectives. You would have specific responsibility to represent the interests of BMC members who are also enrolled with Mountain Training. As this is a new position, the successful applicant will need to spend an initial period working with other experienced councillors and liaising with the BMC office and Mountain Training to further define and execute the role. It is expected that you would make extensive use of social media and virtual meetings for these interactions, and experience in these areas is essential.

This is a non-executive, voluntary role. Travel, accommodation and food will be reimbursed as per the BMC Volunteer expenses policy. In line with our Equality & Diversity Policy, the BMC is keen to achieve a more diverse Council and encourages applications from under-represented groups. The BMC cannot function without volunteers and the commitment from Council members is recognised with 20% discount at Cotswold, other beneficial deals, and invitations to social events.

- **Start Date:** 16th May 2021
- **Tenure:** 3 years, with the possibility of a further three years.
- **Volunteer Commitment:** The full extent of the commitment is up to the individual volunteer and will vary according to their personal circumstances. As with many volunteer roles, volunteers often find that the more they put in, the more they get out, and there is always the opportunity to get further involved.
 - **Minimum voluntary requirement:** Around 290 hours or 40 days equivalent a year:
 - Attend Council meetings (typically 4 to 5 per year, held either countrywide or online, usually on Saturdays – 7 hours for the meeting, 3 hours pre-reading for each meeting)
 - Participate in additional online meetings to engage with members, discuss Council business and in year one develop the role (average 4 hours per month)
 - Additional time as required to liaise / correspond / engage with Mountain Training candidates who are BMC members and other key parties (average 3 hours per week).
 - Attendance at events to meet mountain training candidates face to face (at least once a quarter)
 - Liaise with relevant Specialist Committees / staff / other key parties and read additional material relevant to Council business (average 3 hours per week)
 - **Additional voluntary options:** Attend a wider variety of events, participate in extra committee work
- **Requirements:** Must be a voting member of the BMC of at least 12 months' standing at the time of appointment, as well as holding a Mountain Training qualification.
- **Closing date: Tuesday 30th March 2021**

Background

Members' views are currently gathered through the BMC local area structure and via BMC affiliated clubs, then represented to the Board through the National Council. However, the BMC Organisational Review in 2017 concluded that many members don't have a voice as there is no effective mechanism to ensure their views are heard.

The BMC is therefore re-structuring the National Council into a newly created Members' Council (the Council), to be effective immediately following the AGM in May 2021. A key part of the Council is the introduction of two new Constituency Councillors, one to represent all BMC members participating in Mountain Training schemes and the other for members of BMC affiliated clubs, to sit alongside existing representation from both local areas and clubs.

The BMC is also introducing a second new category of member representative, the Nationally Elected Councillor (NEC). Four NECs will be elected at the 2021 AGM to represent members who participate in the core activities of rock climbing, mountaineering, hill walking and indoor climbing.

Role description

All councillors are first and foremost members of Council and are expected to work collectively to achieve the Council's objectives, in line with and in support of the BMC's strategy. The general responsibilities to achieve this are given in, 'A Brief Introduction to the BMC Members' Council'. The successful candidate will spend the first year in office working with other experienced Council members and BMC staff to develop this new role from a concept into a fully functional position. After development, it is expected that the Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates will have the following specific responsibilities:

- Be a strong voice and champion for Mountain Training candidates who are members of the BMC. In doing this you should pay due regard to the interests of both the professional and voluntary sector who use Mountain Training qualifications, as well as the wider stakeholder organisations that use and support these.
- Proactively engage with those members to promote the role and encourage dialogue. This could include:
 - Reaching out to those members via social media
 - Attending and/or being involved in Mountain Training events and BMC local area meetings
 - Liaising with the BMC Marketing Communications team to utilise their expertise e.g. with surveys and questionnaires, to help understand and engage with members
- In consultation with the Members' Council, liaise with the BMC office to facilitate communication with BMC members who are Mountain Training candidates and help the Council in decisions on how to improve membership engagement nationally.

Skills & personal qualities

- Creative individual prepared to experiment, discover and learn from experience in order to both develop this role and facilitate wider improvement in the BMC's interactions with members.
- Have a good understanding and current knowledge of the Mountain Training network. You will need to be a registered candidate with a Mountain Training qualification scheme and have a good working knowledge of the MTE, MTC and MTUKI organisations, including their aims, values and strategic plans. In order to best represent the views of your constituency members it is essential that you hold qualifications yourself, but it would also be useful to be involved at Council level with any of the three organisations.
- Ideally with experience of, or able to demonstrate understanding of, acting as an advocate for groups or organisations.

- Ideally be a member for at least 12 months of an association, for example Mountain Training Association.
- Experience in the use of different communication platforms, including social media and virtual meeting platforms.
- Team player with the ability to network and engage effectively with the full spectrum of current and potential BMC members who are Mountain Training candidates, BMC staff and volunteers and the national Mountain Training organisations.

Appointment

This is an elected position, voted for by the BMC membership. Election and appointment of the successful candidate will be at the AGM on Saturday 15 May 2021 and they will start their duties on Sunday 16 May at the inaugural meeting of the new Members' Council, the day after the AGM.

To apply, please:

- 1) Write a 500-word statement about your interest, relevant experience and motivation for the role
- 2) Complete the appropriate Nominations form for the volunteer role you wish to apply for. These are also found at www.thebmc.co.uk/agm-volunteers.
- 3) Attach both the statement and completed nominations form to a covering email and email your application to agm@thebmc.co.uk.

Your application will be acknowledged within 2 business days of receipt. If you have any questions about the application process itself, or would like more information about what the role entails, please also contact agm@thebmc.co.uk with your query.

Audio presentation

Since the 2021 BMC AGM will be virtual as a result of Covid-19, all voting will take place electronically. While your application is being validated for correct membership details, you will be contacted by a BMC volunteer to ask you to record a short audio presentation to both introduce yourself and answer some pre-recorded Q&A (max 15 mins, though may be shorter depending on the number of applicants). Further details will be provided after 30 March 2021.

The audio recording and your 500-word statement will be uploaded to the BMC website by 29th April. It will also be advertised on the BMC Facebook page, Twitter feed and other relevant social media to ensure the widest possible reach to BMC members ahead of voting at the AGM.

Selection will be by election at the BMC AGM on Saturday 15 May 2021, which will be held online. You should aim to attend this, and the Council meeting (also online) on the following day.

PLEASE NOTE: An election for this role will only take place if the new Members' Council is first approved by member vote at the AGM.

Closing date is Tuesday 30th March 2021