
British Mountaineering Council: Volunteer Role description

Nationally Elected Councillor for Hillwalking

Are you passionate about the representing the interests of Hillwalkers? 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 next Nationally Elected Councillor for Hillwalking. 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.

Members' Council (the council) represents the views of BMC members to the Board and the Staff Senior Management Team, to influence policy and contribute to the development of the overall strategy. Members views are gathered from BMC affiliated clubs via the club network and through the BMC local Area Committees, who may each elect two volunteer Area Representative to council. In addition, council also has number of Nationally Elected Councillors (NEC) to speak for the specific interests of indoor and outdoor climbers, Mountaineering, hillwalking and two Constituency Councillors (CC) to champion the views of Club Members and candidates taking part in Mountain Training Award schemes.

You would sit on council and help to deliver its objectives with specific responsibility to represent the interests of all Hillwalkers and encourage those who not already BMC members to join our organisation. If you are new to volunteering with the BMC other, experienced councillors will be on hand to help you liaise with the BMC Office and other volunteer groups and develop in the role. It is expected that you would have to make extensive use of social media and virtual meetings for these interactions, and experience in these areas is highly desirable.

Appointment

This is an elected position, voted for by the BMC membership, elections will be held on-line and appointment of the successful candidate will be at the AGM on Wednesday 12th June 2024. The post 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 composition and encourages applications from under-represented groups. The BMC cannot function without its volunteers and the commitment from Council Members is essential to the good conduct of the organisation. All councillors are bound by the Members Council Code of Conduct.

Volunteer Commitment

- **Start Date:** 12th June 2024
- **Tenure:** Three years, with the option to be re-elected for a further term of up to three years.

- **Time Commitment:** Minimum 10 hours a month, 15 days equivalent a year with around a further 4 hours a month for additional committee work
The full extent of the commitment is up to the individual volunteer and will vary according to their personal circumstances. As with many voluntary roles, volunteers often find that the more they put in, the more they get out, and there are always opportunities to get further involved.
- **Requirements:** Applicants must be both a voting member of the BMC of at least 12 months' standing at the time of appointment
- **Closing date for applications: 29th April 2024**

Role description

All councillors are first and foremost members of Council and are expected to work collectively to achieve 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'

- **Duties and Responsibilities:**
 - Be a strong voice and champion for hillwalkers in the BMC, advocate the benefits and advantages of hillwalking and BMC membership.
 - Attend Council meetings, typically 4 to 5 per year, held either countrywide or online, these will usually take place all day on a Saturday and preparation for each meeting will require around 3 hours reading
 - Engage with hillwalking members to promote the role and encourage dialogue. This could include:
 - Reaching out to members, either individuals or clubs (both traditional and virtual), via social media
 - Attending or being involved in organising BMC festivals, hill walking meets and local area meetings/events
 - Liaising with the BMC Marketing Communications team to utilise their expertise e.g. with surveys and questionnaires, to help understand and engage with members
 - Work with the other NECs and constituency councillors, directors, and BMC staff to help the Council in decisions on how to improve membership engagement nationally
 - Sit on the BMC Hillwalking Committee and liaise regularly with area hillwalking representatives. An additional 4 to 5 meetings per year, equivalent to 3 to 4 hours per month
 - Engage with the wider hillwalking community on an informal basis to understand their views and concerns, and to promote the BMC to potential new members, to help towards the BMC's strategic aim to increase its representation of the UK hillwalking community
 - Liaise with BMC office to support the development of quality hillwalking output within the wider BMC media
 - Work with like-minded volunteers to help arrange any Members' Council event focused on hillwalking
- **Additional volunteer opportunities:** Attend a wider variety of events and contribute to the work of specialist committees and other groups
- **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
 - Active Hillwalker with an awareness of current issues facing hillwalkers in the UK

- Experience of, or able to demonstrate understanding of, acting as an advocate for a constituency of members
- Experience in the use of different communication platforms, including social media and online meeting platforms
- Team player with the ability to network & engage effectively with the full spectrum of current and potential club members, BMC staff and volunteers.

To apply, please:

- 1) Write a 500-word statement about your interest, relevant experience and motivation for the role
- 2) Include in your email the name and membership number of the two voting BMC members proposing you.
- 3) 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.

Your 500-word statement will be uploaded to the BMC website by 27th May. 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 Wednesday 12th June which will be held online. You should aim to attend this, and the Council meeting (also online) on the following day.

Closing date is Monday 29th April 2024