Minimum standard activities

Here are the correct minimum standard for the Hillwalking badges Level 1 to 9. The word 'hike' is used in the Level 1 to 9 stages, however, it does not adequately describe the activity; in its place, we have adopted the term SCOUT QMD (Quality Mountain Day) to describe the proper standard of walking or hiking for the hillwalking badges.

Level 1

- 3 hours walking (time spent resting/breaks not included) with a minimum height gain of 50mtr to 100mtr
- A walk around town or on local roads is insufficient.
- Should be based in the wild countryside and include crossing open ground as well as forest path or park walking.

Level 2

- 4 hours walking, (time spent resting/breaks not included) distance of no less than 8km with a minimal height gain of 50mtr to 100mtr
- A walk around town or on local roads is insufficient.
- Should be firmly based in the wild countryside and include crossing open countryside as well as forest path or park walking.

Level 3

- 5 hours walking (time spent resting/breaks not included) distance of no less than 10km with a minimal height gain of 200mtr to 250mtr
- 3 QMDs - one to include a summit
- A walk around town or on local roads is insufficient.
- Should be firmly based in wild countryside and include crossing open countryside

Level 4

- 5 hours walking, (time spent resting or breaks not included) distance of no less than 10km with a minimal height gain of 350mtr to 400mtr
- 3 QMDs - one to include an overnight (you have the choice of daypack only, sleeping gear portered to overnight location)
- A walk around town or on local roads is insufficient.
- Should be firmly based in wild countryside and include crossing open countryside.

Level 5

- The youth member should have attended at least 3 hikes of sufficient quality in addition to the one presented in Level 1,2, 3 & 4.
- There should be a 5 hour plus (time spent resting or breaks not included) walking on hill quality mountain day (QMD) these activities should be firmly based in wild countryside or hillwalking, including the arrival on top of a mountain as part of its route.
- The type of hillwalking activities attended should be different to those stated in level 1, 2 and 3 There should be evidence of progression and hill skill.
- "I have taken part in a two-night hike in the mountains, based out of one campsite“ Youth members need to hike in and out for a minimum of 1 hour or 2km with an expedition pack. The Full Circuit the next morning should be 5 hours or 10km (time spent resting or breaks not included). (A MPC or Sionnach is allowed to fulfil this as both events supersede the requirement) This is in addition to the three-day hikes

Level 6

- "I have taken part in at least 6 hiking activities, 4 of which should be over 800m“. The youth member should have attended 6 hillwalking QMD activities, 4 over 800mtr, 2 over 600mtr. These activities should be firmly based in wild countryside or Hillwalking.
- The type of hillwalking activities attended should be different to those stated in previous levels. There should be evidence of progression and Hillwalking skill. The total height gain for each day shall be 800m.
- The required activities should include high mountain walking elements as part of its route and an active involvement of the Scout in the planning and execution of the Hillwalking adventure. These activities should be added to those presented in level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 and ideally should be in total at least 3 distinct geographic locations.
- "I have taken part in a 2-night hike in the mountains, including a low and high camp“. The scout shall take part in a hike in the mountains as part of a patrol or smaller team which involves 2 nights camping. The two campsites shall be at different points along the route of the hike in a mountain environment, with the first at a low level and the second at a high level.

- The distance between low and high camp shall be at least 5 hours total walking time. (time spent resting or breaks not included)
- The youth member should display an increased level of independence in the terms of their ability to camp in the wild.
  (PEAK will fulfil this requirement)

Level 7, 8 & 9s, we would be looking to ensure the youth member fulfils these criteria:

- The youth member is involved in the planning and instigation
- The walk would last at least 5 hours (time spent resting or breaks not included) and take place in an unfamiliar area
- The majority of time should be spent above 500m, distance should be over 16km with over 600m of height gain during the day and cover a variety of terrain
- The use of a variety of hill walking techniques
- Adverse weather conditions may be encountered
- Experience must be in terrain and weather comparable to that found in the Irish and UK hill.