**Trip Leader Core Competencies:**
In order to achieve the rank of trip leader, the candidate must demonstrate proficiency in each of the following skills:

**Soft Skills:**
- Able to work together and share responsibilities with a co-leader in a professional manner
- Able to resolve conflict between participants or leaders in a polite, definitive manner
- Communicates clearly, concisely, and accurately with co-leader and participants. Works to create a positive, fair, and respectful climate that promotes learning
- Able to be flexible, calm, and adapt to any emotional or physical situation
- Possesses the skills to analyze situations and make informed decisions
- Remains positive role model for participants, even when faced with adversity
- Can explain skills in different terms to appeal to different learning styles
- Willing to ask questions and participate in “continuing education,” as offered by the COC

**Hard Skills:**
Certified Colby driver certification (optional but recommended)
Current WFA or higher (WFR, WEMT) certification
- Able to use map and compass proficiently for orienteering purposes
- Able to file an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and have participants sign waivers
- Comfortable facilitating a pre-trip meeting
- Knows applicable LNT principles for specific activity and area
- Able to plan group menus for extended trips
- Able to instruct all of the following skills
  - Backpack packing
  - Stuffing sleeping bags
  - Blister prevention and care
  - Properly fitting a backpack
  - Hydration
  - Sanitary Procedures in backcountry
  - Basic environmental hazards
  - Campsite selection
  - Shelter building
  - Leave no trace
  - Water treatment/purification
  - Stove care and use
- Familiar with equipment and is able to repair it in the field
- Familiar with common weather patterns in area of travel and able to implement appropriate precautions during weather events
- Familiar with emergency procedures and evacuation drills