



Adventure Studies Department
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CANADIAN MOUNTAIN AND SKI GUIDE PROGRAM

Application Package

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Canadian Mountain & Ski Guide Program
Thompson Rivers University
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*Digital Registration forms can be found at:

<http://www.tru.ca/act/adventure/cmsg-certprg/apply/apppackages.html>

1. Alpine Guide Certificate

Alpine Guides specialize in alpine, rock and waterfall ice climbing terrain.

The goal of the Alpine Guide certificate exam is to certify guides to work without supervision in all types of alpine climbing terrain. A second goal is to continue the aspirant guide's learning process in applying techniques in a wide variety of conditions.

Candidates are expected to come prepared and able to demonstrate and be examined on information contained in the Technical Handbook for Professional Mountain Guides and as taught on Guide Training – Rock, the Apprentice Rock and Apprentice Alpine Guide exams. The guiding standard requires movement up to 5.10 in rock shoes; 5.8 in mountain boots, alpine ice to 70 degrees and water ice to Grade 4 with confident and efficient movement.

The Apprentice Alpine Guide exam and Level 2 for Avalanche Operations are prerequisites to the Alpine Guide certificate exam. Candidates must first complete a 20-day supervised apprenticeship. Apprentice Alpine Guides must wait 1 full year and no more than 3 years before attending the Alpine Guide certificate exam.

If you have already completed the Apprentice Alpine Guide exam and are applying to the Alpine Guide certificate exam, proceed with this application package. If you have not yet completed the Apprentice Alpine Guide exam, return to the web site and click on 'Apprentice Alpine Guide' or contact the CMSG Program office for the correct application package.

2. Notice to Participants of Professional Guide Training Courses - Increased Risk

TRU and the ACMG provide training intended to develop professional skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel guides. To train professional guides it is necessary for students to participate in activities that have higher levels of risk than what may be considered reasonable by entry-level, intermediate, novice, commercial guiding, or recreational standards. This may include, but is not limited to activities such as: lead climbing where the climber places his or her own protective equipment, climbing without helmets, travel and decision making in avalanche terrain, climbing and rescue in a multi-pitch environment, students driving program vehicles, hiking in unusually rough and remote terrain, stress from examination and grading processes, students making route and hazard assessment decisions on behalf of other students, unsupervised activities; and continuing with an activity when it may not be considered reasonable by entry-level, intermediate, novice, commercial guiding, or recreational standards (for example, when fatigued, in inclement weather, or in high hazard conditions).

AT THE START OF EACH COURSE or EXAM YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A LEGAL RELEASE DOCUMENT (Waiver). YOU CAN VIEW A COPY ON-LINE. WE RECOMMEND YOU SEEK LEGAL ADVICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

3. Application Information – Alpine Guide Certificate Exam

PREREQUISITES REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN APPLY

- ❑ Have a current Advanced (80 hr.) First Aid and CPR certificate (Wilderness First Aid is preferred; however OFA 3 will be accepted).
- ❑ CAA Industry Training Program Level Two for Avalanche Operations certificate
- ❑ Apprentice Alpine Guide certificate. You have been an Apprentice Alpine Guide for at least one year. (If it has been more than 3 years since your Apprentice Alpine Guide exam you may be asked to update your skills before attending the Alpine Guide exam.)
- ❑ Minimum 20 days documented supervised guiding.

TO APPLY YOU MUST SUBMIT

- ❑ Registration form (attached)
- ❑ Copy of your current Advanced Wilderness First Aid. (If you will be taking your first aid course after the application deadline, attach a confirmation of registration for the first aid program you are taking – this must be complete, and confirmation received by our office (copy of certificate or letter from the first aid provider) in advance of the course date.
- ❑ Copy of your CAA Level 2 certificate
- ❑ Personal resume update
- ❑ Personal climbing experience update including climbs completed in the last three years as follows. See attached sample format.
 - 5 multi-pitch ice or mixed climbs – WI5 or harder
 - 10 single-pitch sport climbs - 5.11a or harder
 - 5 multi-pitch (>250m) rock climbs - 5.10a or harder
 - 5 alpine climbs - commitment grade III (AD) or harder
- ❑ Proof of work experience 20 days minimum supervised guiding documented as follows:
 - Letter from a supervising guide OR
 - Photocopy of your guides book signed by a supervising guide OR
 - Resume of work experience signed by a supervising guide
- ❑ Letter of Recommendation from an ACMG Alpine or Mountain Guide. See guidelines below.

CONCERNING APPLICATIONS

Allow yourself adequate time to create a well-structured, organized, and complete application that arrives on time. Your application plays a significant role in whether you will be accepted into the program or not. Poorly organized applications or unformatted resumes jeopardize your acceptance as your background, skills and qualifications may not be clear and/or may compare unfavourably to other applications. Please retain a copy of your application for your records or in case of loss.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be complete and received by the CMSG Program office by the application closing date. Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted.

Application deadlines, course dates and fees can be viewed online at www.cmsg.info or contact the Program Office at (250) 371-5838. Dates and fees are updated regularly and may change without notice. **Applications must be delivered via e-mail. They should be saved in a .pdf package and e-mailed to cmsg@tru.ca. They should only be faxed if you don't have any other options.**

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Applicants will be notified of acceptance into the course, once accepted the course fee is due and must be paid in full to confirm placement. See payment details below.

If accepted and it becomes clear to the instructors that you are not at the standard indicted on your application, instructors have the right to remove you from further participation.

4. Sample Format for Climbing Experience Resume

A personal skills resume can be set up in a spreadsheet format to more conveniently list the types and styles of climbs. This will present relevant information in a concise format for the application review committee.

Work Experience

Route <i>Name of route</i>	Difficulty <i>grade</i>	Location <i>area or range</i>	Supervising Guide	Date <i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
Etc.				

Personal Experience – within the last three years

- 5 multi-pitch ice or mixed climbs - grade V or harder
- 10 single-pitch sport climbs - 5.11a or harder
- 5 multi-pitch (>250m) rock climbs - 5.10a or harder
- 5 alpine climbs - commitment grade III (AD) or harder

Route <i>Name of route flash/redpoint</i>	Difficulty <i>Grade</i>	Location/Area <i>area or range</i>	Belayer <i>Partner name</i>	Date <i>month/year</i>	Style (if applicable)
1.					
2.					
Etc.					

5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

The letter can be submitted with the application or sent directly cmsg@tru.ca.

- A. Please include the following in your letter:
 - a. Your name, contact information, occupation, and position
 - b. The applicant's name
- B. Based on your personal experience of the applicant:
 - a. What is your relationship to the applicant (friend, mentor, and supervisor)?
 - b. The length of time you have known the applicant
 - c. What is your impression of the applicant's general mountain skills (fitness, preparedness, technical skills, navigation, and hazard management, climbing skills)?
 - d. What is your impression of the applicant's leadership and decision-making skills?
 - e. What is your impression of the applicant's potential as an alpine guide?
- C. Additional comments are welcome.
- D. Please sign and date your letter.