



Adventure Studies Department
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CANADIAN MOUNTAIN AND SKI GUIDE PROGRAM

Application Package – Ski Guide Certificate

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Canadian Mountain & Ski Guide Program
Thompson Rivers University
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V2C 0C8

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*Digital Registration forms can be found at:

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

1. Guide Training Skiing

Ski Guides specialize in backcountry ski touring guiding and helicopter/snowcat guiding.

The primary goal of Guide Training Skiing is to introduce guiding techniques, technical rope and rescue systems, and common operational standards used by professional ski guides. A secondary goal is to screen candidates to ensure they meet the pre-requisites as detailed in their resume, and to determine whether candidates have the skills to continue in the Ski Guide Certificate.

Guide Training Skiing consists of three courses:

GUIDE TRAINING SKIING - ALPINE SKILLS

This 5-day course introduces rope applications and rope rescue techniques common to the ski guiding industry as well as common alpine travel techniques such as roped glacier travel, short roping, and cramponing. Note: This course is optional for students in the Alpine Guide Program.

GUIDE TRAINING SKIING – MECHANIZED

This 7-day course introduces operational standards and ski guiding techniques common to HeliCat Canada members. These include job responsibilities and teamwork, operational hazard and terrain management, introducing clients to the mountain setting, downhill guiding techniques, backcountry ski technique, cliff rescue, and lost skier search. Specific skills such as companion avalanche rescue, snowpack observation, and ski skills are screened to ensure candidates are at the pre-requisite standard.

GUIDE TRAINING SKIING – TOURING

This 7-day course builds on guide applications learned on the previous courses and introduces guiding techniques common to ski touring and ski mountaineering operations; including uphill track-setting, risk management, basic shortroping, glacier travel, client care, pacing, and navigation.

Guide Training Skiing - Touring is a prerequisite to the Apprentice Ski Guide exam. Students can wait one year after completing Guide Training Skiing before attending the Apprentice Ski Guide exam. Apprentice Ski Guides have up to 3 years to attend the Ski Guide certificate exam.

Throughout Guide Training Skiing candidates are required to show they are physically capable of guiding clients in all types of mountain terrain while demonstrating efficient and confident movement in variable backcountry snow.

MOVEMENT SKILLS STANDARD (SKIING AND RIDING)

You have excellent movement skills and can confidently descend double black terrain. You can smoothly link turns in all types of backcountry snow on slopes as steep as 50 degrees. Your technical skills present an instructive model to clientele.

MOVEMENT SKILLS SCREENING

Movement skills are a pre-requisite standard, which are confirmed during Guide Training Skiing. Movement skills are initially screened during GTS-Mechanized. Students who do not meet the standard must re-screen (no screening takes place after GTS-Touring). There is a fee for re-screening. [Click here to view video](#) of students demonstrating the movement skills standard.

If you are unsure you meet the movement standard you are strongly encouraged to have your movement skills screened prior to submitting your application. Contact the CMSG office for details.

USE OF SNOWBOARDS

Students are welcome to use snowboards but are required to demonstrate the movement standard (described above). Only split-boards are allowed, no snowshoes. Snowboarders who pass the ski guide certificate exam receive documentation stating they used a snowboard). Note: students planning to obtain the Mountain Guide qualification are required to demonstrate the ski standard.

FITNESS STANDARD

You can ski a 1500m descent with minimal stopping while carrying a 15-20 kg pack. You can break trail for several hours and are capable of climbing 1800m a day while carrying a 15-20 kg pack.

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).

Waiver and Release of Liability

AT THE START OF EACH COURSE or EXAM YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A LEGAL RELEASE DOCUMENT (Waiver). A COPY IS ATTACHED. WE RECOMMEND YOU SEEK LEGAL ADVICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE PRINT AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

3. Application Information – Guide Training Skiing

Note: Your application to Guide Training Skiing is for all three training courses: Alpine Skills, Mechanized and Touring. You can indicate preferred dates; however there are no guarantees and the CMSG Program reserves the right of placement.

PREREQUISITES REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN APPLY

- You must be 19 years of age or older
- Have a current Advanced (80 hr.) First Aid and CPR certificate (Wilderness First Aid is preferred; however OFA 3 will be accepted).
- Level 1 for Avalanche Operations certificate (Canadian Avalanche Association)
- Avalanche Search and Rescue - theory certificate (Canadian Avalanche Association)

TO APPLY YOU MUST SUBMIT

- Registration form (attached)
- Copy of your current Advanced Wilderness First Aid certificate. (If you will be taking your first aid course after the application deadline, attach a confirmation of registration for the first aid course you are taking – the course must be completed, and confirmation received by our office in advance of the first GTS course date).
- Personal resume which includes:
 - o Educational background
 - o Related work experience
 - o Goals for becoming a guide
 - o Other information you feel is pertinent

- ❑ Backcountry experience resume showing you meet or exceed the minimum leading experience (see attached page for resume format).
 - 15 backcountry tours of 1-2 days in high alpine or glaciated terrain
 - 2 backcountry tours of five-days or longer in remote, glaciated terrain (non-hut based)
 - 5 backcountry tours of three to five-days or longer in remote glaciated terrain (may be hut based)
 - 5 peaks requiring mountaineering skills, climbed during ski tours
 - Notable backcountry descents
 - Relevant summer mountaineering experience
 - A total of 3 or more years of experience in a variety of snow climates
 - References that can vouch for your backcountry experience resume (include names and contact information).
- ❑ **Clear evidence** of your backcountry movement skills (skiing, riding). This includes:
 - A video (required unless you have level 2 CSIA certification)
 - Instructor or coaching certification (CSIA, CSCF, CASI, CANSI Telemark)
 - Reference letters from ACMG Ski or Mountain Guides, ski instructor or similar vouching for your ski skills
 - Evidence of relevant professional activities i.e. ski patrolling or tail guiding
- ❑ Any related certificates or training courses you may have taken: CSGA, rope rescue, PEP, weather, blasting, mapping.
- ❑ Letters of recommendation or support. See guidelines and format on attached page.

CONCERNING APPLICATIONS

Allow yourself adequate time to create a well-structured, organized, and complete application that arrives on time. Your application is a first impression, as such it 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. We do not retain previous applications. If you had previously applied, but were not accepted, you will need to submit a new and complete application.

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 program, once accepted the first course fee is due and must be paid in full to confirm placement. Please 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 Backcountry Experience Resume

A backcountry experience resume can be set up in a spreadsheet format to more conveniently list the types and styles of ski trips. This will present relevant information in a concise format for the application review committee. You want to show at least three years of touring experience in a variety of snow climates. If you have more trips in any category than is asked for, feel free to add to the list as this demonstrates depth of experience.

15 tours (1-2 days) in high alpine or glaciated terrain

Trip	Area/Range	Date	Comments
<i>Name/description of route, terrain</i>		<i>month/year</i>	<i>weather, leadership</i>
1.			
2.			
etc.			

2 tours (5-days or longer) in remote, glaciated terrain (not hut based)

Trip	Area/Range	Date	Comments
<i>Name/description of route, terrain</i>		<i>month/year</i>	<i>weather, leadership</i>
1.			
2.			
etc.			

5 tours (3-5 days) in remote, glaciated terrain (may be hut based)

Trip	Area/Range	Date	Comments
<i>Name/description of route, terrain</i>		<i>month/year</i>	<i>weather, leadership</i>
1.			
2.			
etc.			

5 peaks requiring mountaineering skills, climbed during ski tours

Peak	Area/Range	Date	Comments
<i>Name/description of route, terrain</i>		<i>month/year</i>	<i>weather, leadership</i>
1.			
2.			
etc.			

Recent summer mountaineering or glacier travel

Peak/Route	Area/Range	Date	Comments
<i>Name/description of route, terrain</i>		<i>month/year</i>	<i>weather, leadership</i>
1.			
2.			
etc.			

5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

- A. *The letter can be submitted with the application or sent directly cmsg@tru.ca.*
- B. *Please include the following in your letter:*
- a. Your name, qualification, contact information, occupation, and position
 - b. The applicant's name
 - c. The length of time you have known the applicant
- C. *If you are an employer or supervisor please describe:*
- a. Your impression of the applicant's work experience (work ethic, daily tasks and contribution)
 - b. Your impression of the applicant's involvement in work place decisions (observer, active participant, team leader, team supervisor)
 - c. Your impression of the applicant's potential as a leader and company representative
- D. *If you are a guide - based on your personal experience of the applicant:*
- a. What is your relationship to the applicant (friend, mentor, supervisor)?
 - b. What is your impression of the applicant's general mountain skills (fitness, preparedness, technical skills, navigation, risk management)?
 - c. What is your impression of the applicant's leadership and decision-making skills?
 - d. What is your impression of the applicant's potential as a ski guide?
- E. *Please comment on the applicant's ski skills.*
- F. *Additional comments are welcome.*
- G. *Please sign and date your letter.*

7. Sample Waiver

Thompson Rivers University
Adventure Studies Department

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS,
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND
JURISDICTION AGREEMENT**
BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN
LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE.
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Initial

Please Print

Name:
Address:

TO: THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
(hereinafter referred to as "TRU")

AND TO: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
(hereinafter referred to as "THE PROVINCE")

AND TO: THE ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MOUNTAIN GUIDES
(hereinafter referred to as "ACMG")

DEFINITIONS:

In this agreement:

- a) the term "SKIING" shall apply to "helicopter skiing," "snowcat skiing," "backcountry skiing," "snowmobile assisted skiing," "alpine skiing," "telemark skiing," "snowboarding" "cross country skiing," and "ski touring,"
- b) the term "CLIMBING" shall refer to "alpine climbing," "rock climbing," "ice climbing," "caving," "mixed climbing," and "mountaineering,"
- c) the term "HIKING" shall refer to "day hiking," "backpacking," and "snowshoeing."
- d) the term "RESCUE" shall refer to "rope rescue," "rock rescue," "cave rescue," "mountain rescue," "helicopter rescue," and "avalanche rescue,"

e) the term "WILDERNESS TRAVEL" shall refer to all forms of land, air, and water based travel and shall include all activities, services and use of facilities either provided by or arranged by TRU or the ACMG or in any way related to skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel activities including, but not limited to: orientation and instruction sessions, transportation, accommodation, and recreational activities in addition to skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel;

f) the term "TRANSPORTATION" shall refer to all forms of transportation off road and on public roads, private roads, and logging roads, including TRU owned vehicles, leased vehicles, ferries, airplanes, student owned vehicles, snowmobile, snowcat and helicopter either provided by or arranged by TRU or the ACMG or in any way related to skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel activities including, but not limited to: loading, unloading and travel in or movement around vehicles, snowmobiles, snowcats and helicopters.

g) the term "INJURY" shall refer to all forms of physical, mental, and emotional injury in any way related to skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation activities including, but not limited to: death, breaks, strains, lacerations, dislocations, amputations, frostbite, hypothermia, trauma, anxiety, phobias, and fears.

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS – AVALANCHES, ALPINE TERRAIN, SKI TERRAIN, CLIMBING TERRAIN, WILDERNESS TRAVEL, WEATHER, ETC.

I am aware that skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation involves risks, dangers and hazards in addition to those normally associated with travel in land, and air based wilderness environments. Avalanches occur frequently in the alpine terrain used for skiing and climbing and may be caused by but not limited to natural forces or by climbers or skiers. Rock fall, ice fall, climber falls, and skier falls occur frequently in the alpine terrain used for climbing and skiing and may be caused by but not limited to natural forces or by climbers or skiers. Bear or other wildlife attacks, rough or irregular terrain, and hiker falls are frequent hazards in the wilderness terrain used for hiking and may be caused by natural forces or hikers. Vehicle rollovers, overloaded roof racks, pulling trailers, inexperienced drivers, and hazardous driving conditions may occur in the type of transportation used for skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel and may be caused by but not limited to natural forces or people.

Initial

Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program

Guide Training Ski

I acknowledge and accept that TRU or the ACMG and their staff may fail to predict whether the terrain used is safe for skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation or whether an accident may occur. The terrain used for skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, and wilderness travel is uncontrolled, unmarked, not inspected and involves many risks, dangers and hazards. These may include, but are not limited to: attacks by bears and other animals, ice and snow cornices, trees, falling trees, tree wells, tree stumps, creeks, rocks, boulders, forest deadfall, holes and depressions on or below the snow surface, steep slopes, cliffs, ice fall and rock fall, variable and difficult snow conditions, crevasses, snowcat roads and road banks, fences and other man-made structures, impact or collision with other skiers or climbers; hail, lightening, inclement weather, failure to predict weather, vehicle rollovers, overloaded roof racks, pulling trailers, unsafe driving, unsafe road conditions; the failure to ski or climb safely within one's own ability or within designated areas; human error, failure to forecast or recognize a hazardous situation, negligence of other skiers, climbers, hikers, or rescuers; and NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF OTHER STUDENTS, TRU, ACMG OR THEIR GUIDES, EMPLOYEES, AND CONTRACTORS INCLUDING THE FAILURE OF TRU OR ACMG OR THEIR GUIDES, EMPLOYEES, AND CONTRACTORS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF WILDERNESS SKIING, CLIMBING, HIKING, RESCUE, WILDERNESS TRAVEL, AND TRANSPORTATION. Communication in the terrain used is difficult and in the event of an accident, rescue and medical treatment may not be available. Weather conditions may be extreme and can change rapidly and without warning, making travel by any means hazardous.

I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH SKIING, CLIMBING, HIKING, RESCUE, WILDERNESS TRAVEL, AND TRANSPORTATION AND I FREELY ACCEPT AND FULLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS RESULTING THERE FROM.

Initial

NOTICE TO SNOWBOARDERS AND TELEMAR SKIERS – INCREASED RISK

Unlike alpine ski boot and binding systems, snowboard and some telemark boot and binding systems are not designed or intended to release and will not release under normal circumstances. The use of such systems or the use of a safety strap or retention device by snowboarders or telemark skiers will increase the risk of not surviving an avalanche.

Initial

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).

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of TRU, the ACMG, and THE PROVINCE allowing me to participate in skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, I hereby agree as follows:

1. **TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS** that I have or may have in the future against **TRU, the ACMG, and THE PROVINCE** and their directors, officers, employees, instructors, guides, agents, independent contractors, representatives, successors and assigns (all of whom are hereinafter referred to as the "RELEASEES") and **TO RELEASE THE RELEASEES** from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation activity, **DUE TO ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, OR BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE, INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE OWED UNDER THE OCCUPIER'S LIABILITY ACT, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.337, ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES, AND INCLUDING THE FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF SKIING, CLIMBING, HIKING, RESCUE, WILDERNESS TRAVEL, AND TRANSPORTATION REFERRED TO ABOVE.**

Initial

- 2. TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any property damage or personal injury to any third party resulting from my participation in skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation;
- 3. TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES from any and all liability for any costs they may incur for medical costs, search and rescue, evacuation, and litigation resulting from my participation in skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation;
- 4. That this Agreement shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives, in the event of my death or incapacity;
- 5. This Agreement and any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and no other jurisdiction, and
- 6. Any litigation involving the parties to this Agreement shall be brought solely within the Province of British Columbia and shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of British Columbia.

In entering into this Agreement I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of skiing, climbing, hiking, rescue, wilderness travel, and transportation other than what is set forth in this Agreement.

Initial

I CONFIRM THAT I AM THE FULL AGE OF NINETEEN (19) YEARS AND I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS AGREEMENT PRIOR TO SIGNING IT, AND I AM AWARE THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT I AM WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH I OR MY HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, ASSIGNS AND REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE AGAINST THE RELEASEES.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of applicant
Print name clearly

Signature of witness
Print name clearly

THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL, INITIALED WHERE INDICATED, DATED, SIGNED AND WITNESSED PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING WITH TRU AND THE ACMG.
01/09/2008