



Adventure Studies Department  
900 McGill Road, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, V2C 0C8  
[www.adventurestudies.ca](http://www.adventurestudies.ca)

## CANADIAN MOUNTAIN AND SKI GUIDE PROGRAM

---

### **Application Package**

#### Package Contents:

1. Program Description
2. Notice of Increased Risk
3. Application Information
4. Sample Format Climbing Resume
5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

Canadian Mountain & Ski Guide Program  
Thompson Rivers University  
900 McGill Road  
Kamloops, BC  
V2C 0C8

Ph. - 250-371-5838

Fax - 250-371-5845

Email: [cmsg@tru.ca](mailto:cmsg@tru.ca)

\*Digital Registration forms can be found at:

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

## 1. Rock Guide Certificate

Rock guides specialize in climbing instruction and guiding on technical rock. This includes long, multi-pitch routes; sport climbs; and top rope climbs on terrain where no glaciation and no permanent or seasonal snow or ice exists.

Guide candidates are expected to instruct and demonstrate climbing techniques to a sub 5.11 standard. The candidate's personal "flash" standard should be at a minimum of 5.10d and their minimum "redpoint" climbing standard to 5.11a or better, either when placing gear or bolt protected "sport" climbs. Candidates demonstrate independent decisions and are expected to take full responsibility for each guiding assignment; including error correction and use of options without coaching or review by a supervising guide.

The Apprentice Rock Guide exam is a prerequisite to the Rock Guide certificate exam. Candidates must complete a 10-day apprenticeship and should attempt the RG exam with 3 years of their ARG exam.

If you have already completed the Apprentice Rock Guide Exam and are applying to the Rock Guide Exam, proceed with this application package. If you have not yet completed the Apprentice Rock Guide exam, return to the web site and click on 'Apprentice Rock Guide Exam' or contact the CMSG 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).

### WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

**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

### PREREQUISITES REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN APPLY

- You must be 19 years of age or older
- Have a current Advanced (80 hr. minimum) First Aid and CPR certificate
- Apprentice Rock Guide certificate. You would proceed to the Rock Guide Exam no less than one year after completing your Apprentice Rock Guide Certificate.
- If it has been more than 3 years since your Apprentice Rock Guide exam you may be asked to update your skills before attending the Rock Guide exam

### TO APPLY YOU MUST SUBMIT

- ❑ Registration form (attached)
- ❑ Copy of your current Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certificate. (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.
- ❑ Rock climbing resume: See attached sample format. This update should cover the last 3 years and include the following additions.
  - 15 single-pitch sport routes – 5.11a or harder
  - 10 multi-pitch (>250m) rock climbs – 5.10a or harder
- ❑ Proof of work experience showing a minimum of 10 days supervised guiding documented as follows:
  - A letter from a supervising guide OR
  - A photocopy of your guides book signed by a supervising guide OR
  - A resume of work experience signed by a supervising guide
- ❑ Letter of Recommendation from an ACMG Rock, Alpine or Mountain Guide. 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 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](http://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](mailto: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 indicated on your application, instructors have the right to remove you from further participation.**

## 4. Sample Format - Rock Climbing 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	Difficulty	Location	Supervising Guide	Date
<i>Name of route</i>	<i>grade</i>	<i>area or crag</i>	<i>supervising guide</i>	<i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
Etc.				

---

### Personal Experience – within the last three years

- 15 single-pitch sport routes – 5.11a or harder
- 10 multi-pitch (>250m) rock climbs – 5.10a or harder

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

---

## 5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

*The letter can be submitted with the application or sent directly [cmsg@tru.ca](mailto:cmsg@tru.ca).*

- A. *Please include the following in your letter:*
- a. Your name, contact information, position and certification
  - b. The applicant's name
  - c. The length of time you have known the applicant
- B. *Based on your personal and professional experience of the applicant:*
- a. What is your relationship to the applicant (friend, mentor, supervisor)?
  - b. What is your impression of the applicant's skills (fitness, preparedness, rope work, movement skills, route finding, and risk management)?
  - c. What is your impression of the applicant's professionalism and client care?
  - 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 a rock guide?
- C. *Additional comments are welcome.*
- D. *Please sign and date your letter.*