

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSTY
Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program

Rock Guide Exam
Application Package

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Mail completed application form to:

Canadian Mountain & Ski Guide Program
Thompson Rivers University
PO Box 3010
Kamloops, BC
V2C 5N3

Ph 250-372-0118
Fax 250-371-5845
Email: acmg@tru.ca

1. Rock Guide Program

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 be able to instruct, coach, and demonstrate climbing techniques to a learning student or client at a 5.10b standard. The candidate's personal "flashed" climbing standard should be at a minimum of 5.10d and their minimum "redpoint" climbing standard is to 5.11a or better, either when placing gear on traditionally protected leads or while climbing bolt protected "sport" climbs. General knowledge, judgment, decision making, error correction, and stress management. Note these skills are assessed to the "full" guide standard which can be describes as the ability to make independent decisions, to take full responsibility for the day, and to error correct and choose options without coaching or review by a supervising guide.

The Assistant Rock Guide Exam is a prerequisite to the Rock Guide Exam. You would proceed to the Rock Guide Exam no less than one year and no more than two years after completing your Assistant Rock Guide Certificate.

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

Note Concerning Applications:

Poorly organized applications or unformatted resumes jeopardize your chances of acceptance because your background, skills and qualifications may not be clear.

It is strongly recommended that you allow yourself adequate time to create a well structured, organized, and complete application that arrives on time.

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

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) A COPY OF THIS CAN BE VIEWED IN THIS APPLICATION PACKAGE. WE RECOMMEND YOU SEEK LEGAL ADVICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

3. Application Information – Rock Guide 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).
- ❑ Assistant Rock Guide certificate. You would proceed to the Rock Guide Exam no less than one year after completing your Assistant Rock Guide Certificate.
- ❑ If it has been more than 3 years since your Assistant 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 skills resume: See attached format example. This update should include significant additions to your original resume and show you have improved your personal climbing ability to 5.11a in rock shoes.
- ❑ 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.

Once you have all the above, please submit your application **together** with a \$500 deposit.

Applications must be complete and received by the Program office no later than the application deadline date (see ACMG web site for application deadline).

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Cancellation Deadline:

Important to note is the cancellation deadline is 45 days in advance of the course to receive a full refund. There are no refunds of any kind, for any reason, if cancellation is received less than 45 days in advance of the course.

4. Sample Format for Rock Climbing Skills 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 - create a separate category for each style of climb (trad, sport, aid etc.)

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

5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

The letter can be submitted with the application or mailed directly to the:

Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program
Thompson Rivers University
Box 3010, 900 McGill Road
Kamloops B.C. V2C 5N3

Or we accept recommendations emailed from the writer and sent to: acmg@tru.ca

- A. Please include the following in your letter:*
 - a. Your name, contact information, occupation, and position
 - 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, 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.*

6. Payment and Cancellation Policy

Payment deadline is 45 days (6 weeks) in advance of your course

Course Fees:

Fees include administration, instruction, assessment, and special travel (e.g. helicopter, snowcat, lifts, etc.) while on the course. Accommodation, meals, and/or food allowances may be provided on some courses; please read logistical information carefully when you are accepted. Candidates may be required to cook meals, especially in the field or in huts and must provide their own transportation to, from, and during the course. Candidates are responsible for all their own equipment and meals, unless indicated otherwise, for each program.

Payment:

The following policies will be strictly enforced.

Your application and the required deposit as indicated on the “Dates and Fees” information are due on or before the closing date. Applications submitted without a deposit will be returned.

Balance of payment is due 45 days before the course starts. Your application will become void if full payment is not received on time and you will not receive a course logistics package as we will withdraw you from the program. Be advised that some courses have a wait list. **If payments are not received on time, the next person on the wait list will be called to fill your spot.**

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, money order, or one of the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash in the mail. Make cheques and money order payable to Thompson Rivers University.

Once accepted, you will be provided with a student number and four options in which to pay course balance, including paying on-line.

Please note: if payments are late, your place on the course may be forfeited.

Cancellation and Refunds:

The following policies will be strictly enforced.

If notice of cancellation is received by the TRU more than 45 days prior to the course start date, all monies paid will be refunded. **There will be no refunds of any kind if notice of cancellation is received less than 45 days before the course starts.**

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to the Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program at Thompson Rivers University.

If the CMSG Program cancels a course or exam, all fees will be refunded in full.

It is strongly recommended that you purchase trip cancellation insurance in case you become ill or injured and are unable to attend the course. Please call for advice if you are having difficulty finding insurance coverage.

Notification of Acceptance:

Applications and payments are held until the closing date at which time applications are reviewed. Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance within four weeks after the closing date.

Dates and Fees:

Applications and the accompanying deposit should be sent to the following address. Course dates and fees are updated regularly and may change without notice. For current information contact:

**Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program
Thompson Rivers University
P.O. Box 3010
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3**

www.acmg.ca

Phone: (250) 372-0118 or (250) 828-5221 or (250) 371-5838

fax: (250)371-5845

email: acmg@tru.ca

7. Sample Waiver

**Thompson Rivers University
Adventure Studies Department**

<p>RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND JURISDICTION AGREEMENT</p> <p>BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">Initial</div>
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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.

Initial

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.

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, lightning, 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).

Initial

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.

Initial

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.

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, INITIALLED WHERE INDICATED, DATED, SIGNED AND WITNESSED PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING WITH TRU AND THE ACMG.
01/09/2008

8. Registration Form – Rock Guide Exam

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Year/month/day

Address: _____

_____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Relationship (i.e. father, mother, wife etc.): _____

Address: _____

_____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Names and dates of all courses or exams for this application:

Course: _____

Course: _____

Payment: Credit Card _____ Exp. _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Payment: Cheque/Money order attached

Please indicate any changes to your diet or medical condition since your last course (i.e., vegetarian, allergies, contact lenses, prescription drugs etc.)

Application checklist. If documentation is missing, your application can be rejected unless a reasonable explanation is attached.

Course Deposit	<input type="checkbox"/>	First aid certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climbing Skills Resume (updated)	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPR certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters of Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you reviewed the waiver?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of Work Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	Registration form (this form)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I acknowledge having read the application package including the attached Cancellation Policy and Waiver and I agree to the terms and conditions described, and certify all information in my application is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____