



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
900 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC
V2C 0C8

Ph. - 250-371-5838
Fax - 250-371-5845
Email: cmsg@tru.ca

*Digital Registration forms can be found at:

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

1. Alpine Guide Program

Alpine Guides specialize in all types of alpine terrain as well as waterfall ice climbing.

There are 5 components in the Alpine Guide Program. The first two are Guide Training Ice and Guide Training Alpine. Recommend students attend the Apprentice Alpine Guide exam. The fourth component is a supervised apprenticeship, which qualifies candidates for the final component – the Alpine Guide exam. Apprentice Alpine Guides must wait 1 full year and no more than 3 years before attending the Alpine Guide exam.

The Apprentice Rock Guide certification is a prerequisite Guide Training Ice and Guide Training Ice is a pre-requisite to the second training course - Guide Training Alpine.

If you have passed the Apprentice Rock Guide exam and want to enter the Alpine Guide Program, proceed with this application package. If you have not completed the Apprentice Rock Guide exam return to the web site and click on 'Apprentice Rock Guide Exam' or contact the Program office for the correct application package.

GUIDE TRAINING ICE

Guide Training Ice builds on systems and guide skills learned in the Rock Guide program. The course focuses on managing clients and making decisions in the winter ice-climbing environment. Avalanches and winter weather are just two factors that complicate the decision-making environment faced by alpine guides. Participants are expected to demonstrate confident and efficient movement up to WI 5.

GUIDE TRAINING ALPINE

This course introduces recommended methods common to alpine guiding and includes an instructor recommendation to proceed to the Apprentice Alpine Guide Exam. Self-directed learning and practice of guide skills is required prior to the exam. The guiding standard requires confident and efficient movement up to 5.10 in rock shoes; 5.8 in mountain boots, steep alpine ice.

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

Note: when applying to Guide Training Alpine, you are applying to both GT-Ice and GT-Alpine. Your skills resume will reflect both water ice and alpine climbs as outlined below.

PREREQUISITES REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN APPLY

- ❑ A current Advanced (80 hr.) First Aid and CPR certificate (Wilderness First Aid is preferred, however OFA 3 is accepted).
- ❑ Apprentice Rock Guide Certificate
- ❑ CAA Industry Training Program Level One for Avalanche Operations certificate

TO APPLY YOU MUST SUBMIT

- ❑ Registration form (attached)
- ❑ Copy of your current Advanced 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.
- ❑ Copy of your CAA Level 1 certificate
- ❑ Personal resume which includes:
 - Related work experience
 - Goals for becoming an alpine guide
 - Other information you feel is pertinent
- ❑ Alpine Skills resume showing you have the minimum leading experience (see attached page for skills resume format)
 - 15 moderate length, mixed alpine routes
 - 5 long, or multi day alpine climbs
 - 15 waterfall ice climbs of WI 4 or harder (5 of which are WI 5 or harder)
 - Travel on icefields and glaciers in summer conditions
 - A total of 3 or more years of experience, preferably in a variety of areas.
- ❑ References that are familiar with your personal alpine climbing background.
- ❑ Letters of recommendation or support. See guidelines 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.

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. 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. Alpine Skills Resume Format

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. You want to be able to show at least three years of alpine climbing experience.

15 moderate length mixed alpine routes

Route <i>Name of route</i>	Difficulty <i>Grade</i>	Location/Area <i>area or range</i>	Duration <i># of days</i>	Date <i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
Etc.				

5 long or multi-day alpine climbs

Route <i>Name of route</i>	Difficulty <i>Grade</i>	Location/Area <i>area or range</i>	Duration <i># of days</i>	Date <i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
Etc.				

Recent travel on icefields and glaciers in summer conditions

Location/Area <i>area or range</i>	Date <i>month/year</i>
1.	
2.	
Etc.	

10 WI 4 or harder ice climbs

Route <i>Name of route</i>	Difficulty <i>grade</i>	Location/Area <i>area</i>	Belayer <i>partner</i>	Date <i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
Etc.				

5 WI 5 or harder ice climbs

Route <i>Name of route</i>	Difficulty <i>grade</i>	Location/Area <i>area</i>	Belayer <i>partner</i>	Date <i>month/year</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, contact information, occupation, and position
 - b. The applicant's name
- C. *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, 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?
- D. *Additional comments are welcome.*
- E. *Please sign and date your letter.*