



# ACMG

Training and Assessment Program

**Hello** and thank you for your interest in applying to the ACMG Training and Assessment Program (TAP).

**As of April 30, 2018**, the ACMG will be running the program for an undetermined period. For any courses beginning May 1, 2018, please use the following pages and application packages that are appropriate for your needs. If you have any questions, feel free to direct them to us at [tap@acmg.ca](mailto:tap@acmg.ca).

If you have previously taken a course with the Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program at Thompson Rivers University, it is possible that we will not have your complete file and may request an update on your resume, letters of recommendations or other info.

Best of luck as you enter the guiding or climbing instructor paths.

*The TAP Team*

**TAP APPLICATION PACKAGE**

**Alpine Guide**



**ACMG**  
Training and Assessment Program

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## Alpine Guide Application Package

### Package Contents:

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

### To Register:

- Review the application package to confirm you meet the prerequisites
- Complete the online application form: [TAP Application Form](#)

### Payment and Cancellation Policy

The course fee is due once you are formally accepted and registered into the course and must be paid in full.

The following policies are strictly enforced.

1. To receive a refund, the ACMG TAP office must receive notice of cancellation by e-mail or post a minimum of 4 weeks before the course start.
2. There are no refunds of any kind if you cancel after the 4 week deadline.
3. The no refund policy includes personal injury, illness, medical reasons, family emergency etc.
4. If the TAP cancels the course, all fee payments will be returned in full.

## 1. Alpine Guide Program

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

The goal of the Alpine Guide certificate exam is to qualify 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 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 CAA Level 2 for Avalanche Operations are prerequisites to the Alpine Guide certificate exam. Candidates must also have completed 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 ACMG Program office for the correct application package.

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

The ACMG provides 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, travel and decision making in avalanche terrain, climbing and rescue in a multi-pitch environment, driving program vehicles, hiking in unusually rough and remote terrain, stress from examination and grading processes, 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

#### 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, and you have not received an extension from the ACMG, you will likely be asked to update your skills before attending the Alpine Guide exam.
- ❖ Minimum 20 days documented supervised guiding.

#### To Apply You Must Submit

- ❖ Application form
- ❖ 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 in good standing. 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. Poorly organized applications or unformatted resumes jeopardize your acceptance as your background, skills and qualifications may not be clear and/or may compare unfavorably 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 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.acmg.ca](http://www.acmg.ca) or contact the Program Office at **403.679.9181**. Dates and fees are updated regularly and may change without notice.

## Notification of Acceptance

All applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection. Once accepted, the course fee becomes due immediately and must be paid in full to confirm placement.

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

## 5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

- 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, please include:*
  - a. Your relationship to the applicant (friend, mentor, and supervisor)?
  - b. The length of time you have known the applicant
  - c. Your impression of the applicant's general mountain skills (fitness, preparedness, technical skills, navigation, and hazard management, climbing skills)?
  - d. Your impression of the applicant's leadership and decision-making skills?
  - e. Your impression of the applicant's potential as an alpine guide?
- C. *Additional comments are welcome.*
- D. *Please sign and date your letter.*