



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.

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

Guide Training Ski



ACMG
Training and Assessment Program

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Guide Training Ski Application Package

Package Contents:

1. Program Description
2. Notice of Increased Risk
3. Application Information
4. Sample Format Skiing 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. 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

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

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).
- ❖ CAA Industry Training Program Level One for Avalanche Operations certificate
- ❖ Avalanche Search and Rescue - theory certificate (Canadian Avalanche Association)

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 1 certificate
- ❖ Copy of your CAA Avalanche Search and Rescue - theory certificate
- ❖ Personal resume which includes:
 - Educational background
 - Related work experience
 - Goals for becoming a guide
 - 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.
- ❖ 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 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 Skiing 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.

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. *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
- B. *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
- C. *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?
- D. *Please comment on the applicant's ski skills.*
- E. *Additional comments are welcome.*
- F. *Please sign and date your letter.*