



# 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 ACMG Team*

**TAP APPLICATION PACKAGE**

**Guide Training Alpine/Ice**



# ACMG

Training and Assessment Program

ACMG Training and Assessment Program  
Box 8245  
Canmore, AB Canada T1W 2T9  
403.679.9181  
tap@acmg.ca

## Guide Training Alpine/Ice 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 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

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

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Apprentice Rock Guide Certificate

#### To Apply You Must Submit

- ❖ Application form
- ❖ 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 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 Alpine 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. You want to be able to show at least three years of alpine climbing experience.

### 15 moderate length mixed alpine routes

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

### 5 long or multi-day alpine climbs

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

Recent travel on icefields and glaciers in summer conditions

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

10 WI 4 or harder ice climbs

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

### 5 WI 5 or harder ice climbs

<b>Route</b> <i>Name of route</i>	<b>Difficulty</b> <i>grade</i>	<b>Location/Area</b> <i>area</i>	<b>Belayer</b> <i>partner</i>	<b>Date</b> <i>month/year</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.*