

# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Adventure Studies Department  
900 McGill Road, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, V2C 0C8  
[www.adventurestudies.ca](http://www.adventurestudies.ca)

## **CANADIAN MOUNTAIN AND SKI GUIDE PROGRAM**

### **Application Package**

#### Package Contents:

1. Program Description
2. Notice of Increased Risk
3. Application Information
4. Sample Format Climbing Resume
5. Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation
6. Payment and Cancellation Policy
7. Course Registration Form (to be printed)

#### Submit completed application form to:

Canadian Mountain & Ski Guide Programs  
Thompson Rivers University  
900 McGill Road  
Kamloops, BC  
V2C 0C8

Ph. - 250-371-5838

Fax - 250-371-5845

Email: [cmsg@tru.ca](mailto:cmsg@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 on terrain where no glaciation and no permanent or seasonal snow or ice exists.

There are four components to the Rock Guide Program. The first is the Guide Training Rock course, which is followed by the Assistant Rock Guide exam. (You may wait one year after completing Guide Training Rock before taking the Assistant Rock Guide Exam.) The third component is a supervised apprenticeship, which qualifies candidates for the final component - the Rock Guide exam. The Assistant Rock Guide certification is also a pre-requisite to the Alpine Guide Program.

### **Guide Training Rock**

The goal of Guide Training Rock is to teach the technical rope work systems and techniques used by ACMG Rock Guides. A second goal is to screen candidate movement skills and knowledge of climbing systems. A third goal is to provide direction toward further involvement in the Rock Guide Program and other ACMG certifications.

**During Guide Training Rock a candidate is required to demonstrate:** Personal “flash” climbing standard at a minimum of 5.10d, and minimum “red-point” climbing standard at 5.11a or better, either when placing gear on traditionally protected leads or while climbing bolt protected “sport” climbs. The candidate is current with modern climbing trends and familiar with the language and pedagogy of training for rock climbing. Candidates are expected to arrive with a strong recreational climbing background with an acquired knowledge of knots, belaying, anchors, protection strategies and climbing systems. It is assumed that the candidates can lead the climbs listed on the submitted resume. Candidates are expected to be physically prepared for a week of outdoor activity.

If you have already completed Guide Training Rock and are applying to the Assistant Rock Guide Exam, complete the Assistant Rock Guide application package (click on Assistant Rock Guide on the ACMG web site or call the CMSG Program office for the ARG application package.

## 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). A SAMPLE WAIVER IS INCLUDED IN THIS APPLICATION PACKAGE. WE RECOMMEND YOU SEEK LEGAL ADVICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE PRINT AND INCLUDE A SIGNED COPY WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

### **3. Application Information – Guide Training Rock**

#### **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).

#### **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.
- ❑ Personal resume which includes:
  - Educational background
  - Related work experience
  - Goals for becoming a guide
  - Other information you feel is pertinent
- ❑ Climbing Skills resume showing you have the minimum leading experience (see attached page for skills resume format)
  - 15 short routes (1 – 3 pitches) requiring protection placement. Minimum 5.10c
  - 15 sport climbs (fixed pro) flashed in the past year. Minimum 5.10d
  - Significant redpoints in the past year which indicate your top climbing standard
  - 15 moderate length routes (full day, multi pitch)
  - 2 or more longer routes (very long/multi day)
  - Any routes which require direct aid
  - Minimum 3 years experience, preferably in a variety of areas on different rock types
- ❑ References familiar with your personal rock climbing background.
- ❑ Letter 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](http://www.cmsg.info) or contact the Program Office at (250) 371-5838. Dates and fees are updated regularly and may change without notice. Applications can be emailed, faxed or mailed.

#### **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. Sample Format for 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.

### 15 Short Trad Climbs (min. 5.10c)

<b>Route</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Location/Area</b>	<b>Belayer</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Style (if applicable)</b>
<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.					

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### 15 Sport Climbs (min. 5.10d)

<b>Route</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Location/Area</b>	<b>Belayer</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Style (if applicable)</b>
<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.					

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### Significant Redpoints in the past year

<b>Route</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Location/Area</b>	<b>Belayer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Name of route</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>area or crag</i>	<i>partner name</i>	<i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
etc.				

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### 15 Moderate Length Routes (Full Day, Multi Pitch)

<b>Route</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Location/Area</b>	<b>Belayer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Name of route</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>partner</i>	<i>month/year</i>
1.				
2.				
etc.				

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### 2 or more longer routes (very long / multi day)

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

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### Routes Requiring Direct Aid

<b>Route</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Location/ Area</b>	<b>Belayer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Name of route</i>	<i>difficulty</i>	<i>area/crag</i>	<i>partner</i>	<i>month/year</i>
1.				
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  
900 McGill Road  
Kamloops B.C. V2C 0C8

*Or we accept recommendations emailed from the writer and sent to: [cmsg@tru.ca](mailto:cmsg@tru.ca)*

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:*

- a. What is your relationship to the applicant (friend, mentor, supervisor)?
- b. The length of time you have known the applicant
- c. What is your impression of the applicant's rock climbing skills (fitness, movement, rope handling, preparedness, risk management)?
- 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**

### **Course Deposit**

**The course deposit (\$500) is due once you are formally accepted into your course and must be paid in full to confirm placement.**

The remaining course fee is due 6 weeks before the course start date. Course fee information is posted online ([www.acmg.ca](http://www.acmg.ca)) in the “Dates and Fees” section.

Fees include: facilities, administration, instruction, and assessment while on the course. Candidates are responsible for all their own equipment, meals, transportation, and accommodation unless otherwise indicated; additional details are provided prior to each course.

**If final payment is not received 6 weeks before the course starts you will be withdrawn from the course.**

### **Please use Option 1 if a deposit is required**

1. Cheque or money order payable to Thompson Rivers University, must be mailed to:  
Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program  
900 McGill Road  
Thompson Rivers University  
Kamloops, V2C 0C8 – (Attn Brad)
2. By phone – telephone the TRU Finance Department at **250-371-5646** during regular business hours. You must have your student number when you call. You can use Visa, MasterCard or American Express.
3. Through your bank – using your bank’s electronic payment services. Set TRU as a payee.
4. On the Web (only if you have a myTRU account and know your myTRU number)  
Log on to myTRU at [www.tru.ca](http://www.tru.ca) > Quicklinks > myTRU > Students Resources > Online Payment > Make Payment

### **Cancellation and Refunds**

**The following policies are strictly enforced.**

If notice of cancellation is received by TRU **6 weeks or greater** 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 two weeks before the course starts.**

**Notice of cancellation must be made in writing (email is fine) to the Canadian Mountain and Ski Guide Program.**

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

# 7. Sample Waiver

Thompson Rivers University  
Adventure Studies Department

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS,  
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND  
JURISDICTION AGREEMENT**  
BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN  
LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE.  
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Initial

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.

**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.

Initial

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, lightening, 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.

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.

Initial

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

## 7. Registration Form - Guide Training Rock

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate Course Dates and Locations

First Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Please refer to Payment and Cancellation Policy for payment information.

### Medical Information

Please respond YES or NO to the following questions. Please specify or provide details as needed.

Do you have any drug allergies?

Do you require any medications?

Do you have any medical conditions that the instructors need to be aware of?

Do you have any food allergies/restrictions?

Please update our office if your medical status changes.

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

Personal Resume, cover letter, etc.

First aid certificate

Climbing Skills Resume

Signed copy of the waiver?

Letters of recommendation

Registration form

**I acknowledge having read the application package including the 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: \_\_\_\_\_