

Canyon 1



Photo: Neil Silverwood

Scope and Syllabus

With the support of:



NZOIA™ Canyon 1

Scope

Canyon 1 Profile

The NZOIA Canyon 1 is able to:

- Plan and prepare canyon experiences
- Lead and manage groups in canyons
- Apply effective safety management
- Instruct the canyon skills required for positive, educational and safe experiences
- Prepare and deliver teaching sessions
- Role model and promote accepted environmental practices
- Provide interpretive information about sites visited

Scope

The holder of this qualification can organise, instruct and guide in canyons up to v3a3III*

*The grading system referred to is the French grading system, and is the standard for grading in New Zealand. This is described in detail on the [Kiwi Canyons Grading Table](http://www.kiwicanyons.org) found at www.kiwicanyons.org.

Prerequisites

Be a current Registered Member of NZOIA

Be 20 years old or over. Refer to NZOIA's policies for [exemptions](#).

Hold a current First Aid Certificate

Have the following experience as evidence in a logbook:

Total experience – at least 40 days experience (a canyon day is considered to be at least 4 hours) in at least 5 different canyons including:

Personal experience – at least 20 days personal experience in canyons with a minimum of 5 trips above v3a3III

Instructional experience – at least 20 days instructing, leading or guiding groups in canyons with a minimum of 5 trips above v2a2II

A valid teaching session is an organised event with expected outcomes (not teaching friends informally).

The prerequisite experience requirements are minimums, extra days are recommended so that a broad range of experience is gained. Experience will include co-instructing/guiding or working as an assistant instructor/guide.

Registration and Revalidation

Registration and revalidation with NZOIA provide proof of currency for NZOIA qualification holders.

Progressing to NZOIA Canyon 2

As the NZOIA Canyon 1 gains more experience, they can progress to gaining the NZOIA Canyon 2 qualification. The steps they can follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Canyon 2 prerequisites
- Attending an NZOIA Canyon 2 training course
- Working with an NZOIA Canyon 2 holder

Syllabus

Assessment Notes

The syllabus outlines what the content of the assessment will include and gives an idea of what assessment tasks the candidate will be asked to complete. All judgements on how the candidate meets the syllabus must be based on current good practice and industry standards.

Assessors use three types of direct evidence to judge a candidate's competency:

- Written questions/assignment
- Questioning and discussion
- Observation of practical tasks

Depending on location and conditions, Assessors may use scenarios for candidates to demonstrate knowledge and skill.

The candidate is expected to be able to complete rigging tasks whether the canyon is previously known to them or not.

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate the care and correct use of canyon equipment and clothing

The candidate will:

- 1.1** Use equipment that is in good condition, is well maintained and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current good practice
- 1.2** Describe the advantages and disadvantages of current equipment and clothing used for canyoning and reasons for choice
- 1.3** Complete a pre-activity check of equipment for completeness, damage and correct fit and describe how to identify worn equipment e.g. surface wear of ropes, tape and harnesses, internal damage to ropes, wear and stress to metal of hardware, wear and stress to helmets
- 1.4** Demonstrate how to pack personal and group equipment for a day trip

2. Demonstrate safe and efficient handling of ropes and packs

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 2.1** Coiling and uncoiling of ropes, both into and out of rope bags
- 2.2** Efficient rope and pack management
- 2.3** How to tie and use knots that are fit for purpose

3. Construct a variety of safe and efficient rigging systems

The candidate will construct:

- 3.1** Hand lines
- 3.2** Safety lines
- 3.3** Abseil systems
- 3.4** Belay systems
- 3.5** Lowering systems
- 3.6** Guided rappels

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 3.7** Sound judgement where rigging is needed and apply appropriate techniques
- 3.8** Ability to identify where releasable systems are required
- 3.9** Safe and efficient retrieval of equipment
- 3.10** Systems suitable for use by novice participants, allowing for easy and safe connection and transition to abseiling
- 3.11** Inclusion of a belay system for participant abseils
- 3.12** The use of a personal safety system for safe setup and running, and allowing for visual communication where possible, and minimising potential shock loading
- 3.13** Effective sharp edge management
- 3.14** Consistently assess fixed anchors for signs of damage, wear or weakness
- 3.15** The use of at least two different abseil devices or methods, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of both

4. Demonstrate safe and efficient canyon movement techniques

The candidate will:

- 4.1** Recognise and describe hydraulic features and the risks associated with water in canyons
- 4.2** Demonstrate white water movement techniques in up to a5 terrain
- 4.3** Demonstrate the safe checking of pools
- 4.4** Demonstrate sliding techniques
- 4.5** Demonstrate a variety of jumping techniques
- 4.6** Demonstrate safe river crossing techniques on canyon approach and describe the dangers and appropriate use of these techniques
- 4.7** Demonstrate safe, efficient and balanced movement
- 4.8** Demonstrate safe and efficient ascending single rope including mid rope conversions from up to down and down to up
- 4.9** Demonstrate exposed climbing moves safely, typical for v4 terrain

5. Demonstrate canyon rescue skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 5.1** Assisting people through water sections, both calm and turbulent
- 5.2** Rescuing people from turbulent water situations using a throwbag, throwing rope coils or swim rescues
- 5.3** Assisting an injured person through canyon to exit, escape or evacuation point
- 5.4** Escaping from a canyon using handlines, belays, assisted and unassisted hauling including progression in mechanical advantage
- 5.5** Safe and efficient rescues from any rigging system set up by the candidate
- 5.6** Ability to problem solve in case of an abseiler getting stuck on a releasable system that is jammed or tied incorrectly
- 5.7** Safe, efficient and controlled cut away rescue to lower on a rescue rope
- 5.8** Ability to problem solve in case of a stuck rope on retrieval
- 5.9** Efficiently passing a knot on single rope whilst descending and ascending

6. Demonstrate navigation and route selection skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 6.1** Effective navigation skills and route selection to and from a given canyon
- 6.2** Safe, efficient and appropriate route selection in a given canyon

The Environment

7. Role model and promote accepted environmental practices

The candidate will:

- 7.1** Demonstrate and/or describe the responsibilities to land owners and other users, including access protocols
- 7.2** Describe the impacts of visitation of a given canyon, including and the impacts of rigging, both fixed and placed anchors
- 7.3** Role model and promote the principles of Leave No Trace
- 7.4** Demonstrate awareness of practices to stop the spread of didymo and other fresh water pests

8. Understand the impact of the weather on safety in a canyon environment

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 8.1** An understanding of general weather patterns affecting New Zealand
- 8.2** Knowledge and use of synoptic weather maps and using different sources of weather information make a forecast about; wind direction and speed, temperature and precipitation

- 8.3** An understanding of changes in clouds, temperature and wind direction and how they relate to changes in weather conditions
- 8.4** An understanding of the topography and geology of a given canyon and how rainfall or snow/glacier melt is likely to affect water levels

9. Demonstrate and/or describe cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of the canyon environment visited

The candidate will understand, and provide interpretive information about:

- 9.1** The natural and cultural history of the area
- 9.2** The geography and geology of the canyon environment
- 9.3** Local flora and fauna
- 9.4** Concepts of te ao Māori specific to the canyon/river environment including kaitiakitanga

The candidate will:

- 9.5** Role model and promote cultural awareness of and respect for all people
- 9.6** Role model and promote respectful and professional interactions with others

Group Management and Leadership

10. Plan and prepare for a canyon experience

The candidate will prepare a written activity management plan which includes:

- 10.1** The aims, objectives and purpose of the trip
- 10.2** Plan a logical sequence of teaching progressions
- 10.3** Route information including; estimated times, emergency and canyon escapes
- 10.4** Hazard identification and management
- 10.5** Any consent or access issues
- 10.6** A relevant weather forecast and identifies any implications of the weather forecast for the planned trip
- 10.7** Clothing and equipment list for both individuals and the group
- 10.8** Intentions information and emergency contacts
- 10.9** An outline of emergency procedures

11. Lead and manage a group during a canyon trip up to v3a3III

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 11.1** A safety briefing before the canyoning trip commences
- 11.2** Awareness and disclosure of relevant hazards encountered
- 11.3** Effective management of a group during a canyon trip and approach including; organising group positioning, a suitable communication system and a system for accounting for everyone

- 12.3 Ability to assess client suitability for the trip
- 12.4 Suitable body positioning and spotting techniques
- 12.5 Coaching, encouraging, motivating clients to promote interest, engagement and to create a positive experience
- 12.6 Establishing rapport with clients and having an awareness of their physical, emotional, cultural and/or other needs

12. Apply effective safety management

The candidate will:

- 12.1 Be familiar with the use of and can describe the advantages and limitations of a variety of emergency communication devices in a canyon environment e.g. VHF radio, cell phone, satellite messenger, PLB
- 12.2 Demonstrate awareness of the prevention, symptoms, and treatment for medical issues relevant to canyoning e.g. near drowning, hypothermia, shock, sunburn, dehydration, rolled ankle, shoulder dislocation
- 12.3 Carry appropriate personal and group management equipment e.g. shelter, communication, first aid kit, rescue equipment
- 12.4 Demonstrate safe practices, good judgement and decision making
- 12.5 Describe procedures used in the event of; missing group member, group becoming lost to/from canyon, changes to environmental conditions, rising water level, entrapment, panic and an unplanned overnight stay
- 12.6 Take reasonably practicable steps to eliminate or minimise the effect of significant risk for self and others
- 12.7 Knowing when to stop or halt a trip for safety reasons

Instruction

13. Deliver teaching sessions

- 13.1 Select and prepare a suitable location for client success
- 13.2 Use clear demonstrations and explanations
- 13.3 Provide opportunities for participants to practice
- 13.4 Deliver feedback that is timely and specific
- 13.5 Maintain a positive learning environment

14. Instruct the canyon skills required for a positive, educational and safe experience

The candidate will provide clients with effective instruction in the following skills:

- 14.1 Fitting and checking of equipment
- 14.2 Canyon movement and spotting
- 14.3 Swimming techniques in moving water
- 14.4 Jumping and sliding techniques
- 14.5 Abseiling techniques
- 14.6 Use of safety lines
- 14.7 In-canyon communication