

Canyon 2



Photo: Toine Houtenbos

Scope and Syllabus

With the support of:



NZOIA™ Canyon 2

Scope

Canyon 2 Profile

The NZOIA Canyon 2 is able to:

- Plan and prepare advanced canyoning experiences
- 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
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of canyoning

Scope

The holder of this qualification can organise, instruct and guide all aspects of canyoning including:

- Leading trips in canyons above v3a3III*
- Running and supervising canyon training courses
- Training canyon guides and instructors

*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

Hold a NZ Rivers Association River Rescue, NZOIA/Whitewater NZ River Rescue 1 or provide logged evidence of equivalent white water rescue skills

Hold a current NZOIA Canyon 1 qualification. Refer to NZOIA's policies for [exemptions](#).

Have the following experience as evidence in a logbook:

Total experience – at least 120 days experience (a canyon day is considered to be at least 4 hours) in canyons including:

Personal experience – at least 50 days personal experience in 10 different canyons including a minimum of 10 days above v4a4IV

Instructional experience - at least 50 days experience instructing, leading or guiding groups in canyons, including a minimum of 10 days above v3a3III

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.

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 skills.

The NZOIA Canyon 2 candidate is expected to demonstrate any of the competencies outlined in the NZOIA Canyon 1 Scope and Syllabus, as well as the following competencies:

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate knowledge of canyoning history, ethics and legislation

The candidate will have understanding and awareness of:

- 1.1** The origins of canyoning as a sport and current developments and trends
- 1.2** Locations of canyon areas both in New Zealand and globally
- 1.3** Any ethical issues for canyons visited
- 1.4** Current threats to New Zealand's canyons and the effect these have on recreational river use
- 1.5** The role of the New Zealand Canyoning Association
- 1.6** The NZ Canyon Search and Rescue system
- 1.7** The role of the canyon Activity Safety Guidelines and their relevance to Safety Management Systems

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

The candidate will:

- 2.1** Role model using equipment that is in good condition, well maintained and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current good practice
- 2.2** Have in-depth knowledge of current equipment and clothing used for canyoning and reasons for choice
- 2.3** Carry suitable equipment to repair fixed anchors and to construct emergency anchors
- 2.4** Describe the differences and advantages of a variety of emergency communication devices in a canyon environment e.g. VHF radio, cell phone, satellite messenger, PLB

3. Demonstrate safe and efficient rigging of canyons above v3a3III

The candidate will:

- 3.1** Demonstrate safe and efficient rigging in a canyon that is unfamiliar to the candidate
- 3.2** Consistently assess fixed anchors for signs of damage, wear or weakness
- 3.3** Demonstrate rigging using a variety of natural anchors e.g. wires, stoppers, hexes, pitons, logs, trees, threads, pinches. Be innovative in situations where there are no obvious anchors
- 3.4** Demonstrate rigging on abseils longer than half of the longest rope, anticipating for safe and efficient rescues and efficient retrieval
- 3.5** Demonstrate rigging of multi-pitch abseils
- 3.6** Demonstrate rigging to avoid or mitigate water hazards, specifically using guided rappels, tyrolean traverses, deviations and tethered swims
- 3.7** Effective sharp edge management
- 3.8** Describe how to place bolts in accordance with current good practice

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 strong white water movement skills in up to a6 terrain
- 4.3** Demonstrate sliding techniques
- 4.4** Demonstrate advanced jumping techniques
- 4.5** Demonstrate safe river crossing techniques and describe the dangers and appropriate use of these techniques
- 4.6** Demonstrate a thorough and balanced assessment system for deciding on participant suitability on bigger or more technical jumps and slides and an awareness of alternatives
- 4.7** Demonstrate safe, efficient and balanced movement
- 4.8** Demonstrate safe and efficient ascending on single and double rope including mid-rope conversions from up to down and down to up
- 4.9** Demonstrate exposed climbing moves safely, typical for v5 terrain
- 4.10** Demonstrate ascending on a guided rappel

5. Demonstrate canyon rescue skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 5.1** Being able to deal with emergencies that could occur on canyon trips, specifically rescues using; mechanical advantage systems for raises, tracking lines and tyrolean traverses
- 5.2** Breaking into a loaded abseil system (releasable and fixed) to create a hauling system with increasing steps of mechanical advantage and changing back to lowering
- 5.3** Mid-rope rescue of a stuck abseiler on the same and separate ropes from the top and bottom
- 5.4** Safe, efficient and controlled cut away rescue to lower on a rescue rope
- 5.5** Safe and efficient rescues from any rigging system set up by the candidate
- 5.6** Ability to problem solve issues arising from incorrect or inappropriate rigging
- 5.7** Effective deep water rescues in strong flows and turbulence using a throwbag, throwing rope coils or tethered swim rescues
- 5.8** Shallow water entrapment rescues
- 5.9** Rescue from vertical entrapment

The Environment

6. Role model and promote accepted environmental practices

The candidate will:

- 6.1** Demonstrate and/or describe the responsibilities to landowners and other users, including access protocols
- 6.2** Describe the impacts of visitation on a given canyon, including the impacts and ethics of placing fixed anchors over using natural anchors
- 6.3** Role model and promote the principles of Leave No Trace Demonstrate an awareness of practices to stop the spread of freshwater pests and weeds
- 6.4** Discuss concepts of te ao Māori specific to the river environment including kaitiakitanga

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

The candidate will understand, and provide interpretive information about:

- 7.1** The natural and cultural history of the area
- 7.2** The geography and geology of the canyon environment and different types of canyons
- 7.3** Canyon flora and fauna

The candidate will:

- 7.4** Role model and promote cultural awareness relevant to the canyon areas visited e.g. conservation protocols, areas which are tapu
- 7.5** Role model and promote respectful and professional interactions with others

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 general forecast about; wind direction and speed, temperature and precipitation
An understanding of changes in clouds, temperature and wind direction and how they relate to changes in weather conditions
- 8.3.** An understanding of the topography and geology of a given canyon and how rainfall or snowmelt is likely to affect water levels

Group Management and Leadership

9. Lead and manage a group during a canyon trip

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 9.1** Effective briefing and debriefing
- 9.2** Effective participant suitability assessment
- 9.3** 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
- 9.4** A leadership style that is appropriate for the clients; their skill and experience level and their needs
- 9.5** Establishing rapport with clients and having an awareness of their physical, emotional, cultural or other needs

10. Apply effective safety management

The candidate will:

- 10.1** Demonstrate a constant risk management assessment of the group, including; environmental factors, weather, guides, self and procedural hazard identification
- 10.2** Demonstrate the ability to recognise and adapt at any time to varying situations
- 10.3** Have an extensive knowledge of the New Zealand Search and Rescue system, especially with respect to the local environment they are working in
- 10.4** Have a first aid kit and be able to deal with first aid situations as required
- 10.5** Describe procedures in an emergency including; assessment of the situation, managing casualties, effective call for outside assistance, and managing remainder of group
- 10.6** Take reasonably practicable steps to eliminate or minimise the effect of significant risks for self and others
- 10.7** Demonstrate safe practices and good judgement and decision making

Instruction

11. Prepare and deliver teaching sessions

- 11.1** Develop aims based on knowledge of clients and timeframes
- 11.2** Plan a logical sequence of teaching progressions
- 11.3** Use clear demonstrations and explanations
- 11.4** Select and prepare a suitable location for participant success
- 11.5** Brief the participants and outline the learning outcomes
- 11.6** Provide opportunities for clients to practice
- 11.7** Deliver feedback that is timely and specific
- 11.8** Maintain a positive learning environment

12. Instruct the canyon skills required for safe, well managed and positive learning experiences for participants

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

- 12.1** Fitting and checking of equipment
- 12.2** Canyoning movement and spotting
- 12.3** Swimming techniques in moving water
- 12.4** Jumping and sliding techniques for bigger and more technical jumps and slides
- 12.5** The use of abseil devices and methods
- 12.6** Bottom belaying
- 12.7** Be able to impart knowledge to intermediate canyoners about canyon equipment