

# NZOIA™ Bush Walking Leader Scope

<b>Definition of Qualification</b>	<p>This qualification is for people who lead walks of less than one day duration, on clearly formed and marked tracks with bridged river crossings.</p> <p>Possible users may include commercial guides, club or youth group leaders, teachers or leaders at an outdoor activity centre.</p> <p>This is a foundation qualification and provides a stepping stone towards the higher Instructor qualifications.</p> <p>Leaders are only qualified to operate within a safety management system.</p>
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The following is the scope of the Bush Walking Leader qualification.

## Environmental Scope

Description	<p>Can lead bush walks where the following environmental conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formed and marked tracks.</li> <li>• In open or bush terrain.</li> <li>• Walks may extend to the bush line</li> <li>• Walks could extend beyond the bushline for short distances in favourable weather conditions (see examples)</li> <li>• In front country (easily accessible terrain)</li> <li>• It excludes terrain with remote / unscheduled boat access, lengthy vehicle access along unsealed or 4WD roads and terrain that is accessed from a remote accommodation base.</li> </ul>
Examples of terrain within scope	<p>The following are examples of terrain that could be within the scope of a leader depending on the characteristics of the party, expected weather conditions and equipment.</p> <p>South Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Robert to the summit, in summer conditions and good weather. This walk extends a short distance beyond the bushline to gain a view that is often the objective of the trip. It also offers a quick retreat to the bush in deteriorating weather and two DoC shelters.</li> <li>• Day trips along the Abel Tasman coast path with prearranged water taxi pick-up. While essentially a multi-day tramp and outside the scope the availability of commercial water taxis makes a day trip possible and enables the risks presented by poor telecommunications to be reduced</li> </ul> <p>North island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day trips in the Auckland Regional Parks. The Hunua and Waitakere Ranges offer many options for day trips on well marked tracks and for which information is readily available from ARC.</li> <li>• Short walks or day trips from Dawson Falls road-end, Egmont National park. Staying below the bushline or extending to the bushline to admire the view there are a variety of opportunities available from the various road-ends on Mt Taranaki.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level day trips in the Tongariro National Park in summer conditions. This is an alpine area so trips should only be undertaken in good summer conditions on the basis of a favourable weather forecast. Short bush walks around the Whakapapa village, the track to Taranaki Falls, a day walk up to the bushline on the Ketetahi track, the Mangatepopo Valley to the Soda Springs are all within scope in good summer weather.</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day trips from an accommodation base that has easy vehicle access and land line telecommunications.</li> </ul>
Examples of terrain out of scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel extending along or across mountain tops above the bushline (e.g. Tongariro crossing, Mt Robert Ridge). Open mountain tops present higher risks in terms of exposure to weather changes, their exposure increases the severity of any incident and they require a level of navigational skill that is beyond this qualification.</li> <li>Snow slopes. Travel in snow is covered by the Alpine 1 instructor qualification. There could be some instances where a well marked track can be safely negotiated after snowfall provided that weather conditions are good, the gradient is very low, and the consequences of a slip or fall are no greater than when the track is clear of snow.</li> <li>Overnight tramping trips.</li> <li>Trips from a base that is NOT served with reliable telecommunications.</li> <li>At no time will the party be more than 3 hours walk from their vehicle and reliable telecommunications (land line or mobile).</li> </ul>
<b>Group Leadership</b>	
General	<p>A Bush Walking Leader must manage risk within the clearly defined parameters of a safety management system.</p> <p>A Bush Walking Leader qualification does not define the skill set necessary to develop the safety management system.</p> <p>A Bush Walking Leader can work independently but must be indirectly supervised by a higher qualified and experienced individual.</p>
Ratio	<p>Ratios are hard to prescribe and they will vary depending on a variety of factors (e.g. age, behaviour, special needs and ability of participants, weather, environment)</p> <p>A leader is competent to manage up to 10 participants when environmental conditions and individual ability are suitable for this.</p>
Extending group Scope	<p>A Bush Walking Leader can assist a Bush Instructor in environments specified in the Bush Instructors qualification scope if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further personal experience walking in instructor level terrain has been logged.</li> <li>When working outside the scope of the Bush leader qualification the leader must be under the direct supervision of the instructor.</li> </ul> <p>All responsibility sits with the Bush Instructor. Guidelines for this are outlined in the Bush Instructor Scope.</p>
<b>Training and Assessment</b>	
	<p>A Bush Leader qualification meets the pursuit specific Minimum Assessor Requirements (MARs) for unit 425 Experience Day Tramps.</p> <p>The generic MARs relating to assessment are not met by this qualification.</p>

Revalidation	
	The Bush Leader qualification remains valid so long as the holder completes annual revalidation requirements via NZOIA and maintains registration with the NZ Outdoor Registration Board.

## NZOIA™ Bush Walking Leader Syllabus

**Bush Walking Leader profile:** This qualification is for people who:

- Organise and lead walks of less than one day duration on formed and marked tracks with bridged river crossings.
- Provide positive and well managed experiences for groups.

**A Bush Walking Leader must be able to:**

**Personal competence**

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of and care for equipment commonly used in New Zealand for walking trips
- Demonstrate practical application of location awareness and the use of maps and compasses.
- Demonstrate and describe safe practices around rivers and water ways.
- Provide interpretive information to a group

**Leadership**

- Demonstrate the ability to prepare for an bush walk experience that is consistent with the safety management system of the organisation.
- Understand the impact of weather on safety in the outdoor recreation environment.
- Demonstrate understanding of nutritional needs and outdoor hygiene
- Demonstrate knowledge of the environment to be visited
- Move safely and confidently with a group in the outdoor environment.
- Demonstrate effective safety and emergency management

Pre-requisites	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a current first aid qualification completed or renewed within the last 2 years</li> </ul>

Recommended prior to assessment	
	Risk management decisions and leadership skills require a level of maturity, therefore it is recommended that the bush walking leader:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be 18 years old or over.</li> </ul> <p>Outdoor experience is required to demonstrate confident proficiency during the assessment. The following are minimum guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 days experience on day walks exceeding 4 hours duration in a variety of areas and weather conditions.</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 days experience as a co-leader or peer leader on day tramps exceeding 4 hours in duration in a variety of areas and weather conditions.</li> <li>• Recommended reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Haddock, C. (2004) Outdoor Safety - Risk Management for Outdoor Leaders. Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Manual 38.</li> <li>○ Allan, S. (2005) Bushcraft. Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Manual 31.</li> <li>○ Griffin, C (2002). New Zealand Outdoor First Aid. Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Manual 33.</li> <li>○ Ministry of Education, (2002). Safety and EOTC. A good practice guide for New Zealand Schools.</li> <li>○ SPARC (2002) Outdoor Activities, Guidelines for Teachers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Personal Competence – The candidate MUST be able to demonstrate their competence at the following:</b>	
Equipment	<p><b><i>Demonstrate basic knowledge of and care for equipment commonly used in New Zealand for walking trips</i></b></p> <p>(including - clothing, rain wear, footwear, day packs, portable stoves, survival equipment inc. portable emergency shelters)</p> <p>Demonstrate the principles of using layered clothing for different weather conditions.</p> <p>Demonstrate how to pack personal and group equipment for a day trip.</p> <p>List the minimum requirements for a day trip including emergency equipment.</p> <p>Demonstrate the use of communication devices (e.g. Mt Radio, Sat phone, PLB,)</p>

Navigation	<p><b><i>Demonstrate practical application of location awareness and the use of maps and compasses.</i></b></p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge and use of different maps (including – 1:50,000 topographical maps, Trackmaps, Parkmaps, Terramaps) including scales, symbols, grids, contours, features, orientation</p> <p>Orientate a map to ground using features only</p> <p>Orientate a map using a compass.</p> <p>Locate a specified point on map using a 6-figure grid reference plus map numbering</p> <p>In good visibility while on/near a clear linear feature use natural features to determine present position on a map.</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to navigate to a specified point using a map.</p> <p>Follow a marked track and explain the current methods of marking tracks in New Zealand</p> <p>Plan a given outdoor route using a 1:50,000 topographical map, including distance / time calculations, and identify an alternative (Plan B / emergency plan) appropriate to the trip. Plan must demonstrate route selection to avoid unbridged river crossings.</p>
River Safety	<p><b><i>Demonstrate and describe safe practices around rivers and water ways.</i></b></p> <p>Describe the risks associated with river crossing.</p> <p>Define when to cross and when not to cross a minor unbridged stream (minor stream represent little or no risk on crossing and typically have some of the following characteristics: can be jumped across, ankle deep or less, slow moving )</p> <p>Demonstrate safe techniques for crossing minor unbridged streams with a group.</p> <p>Demonstrate or explain techniques required for a group to cross wire suspension and wooden span bridges (excludes 2 and 3 wire bridges).</p>
Environmental Interpretation Skills	<p><b><i>Provide interpretive information to a group</i></b></p> <p>Provide interpretive information to the group relevant to the location including - geography / geology, cultural , human and natural history</p> <p>Demonstrate and explain to others the Environmental Care Code (DOC 1991).</p> <p>Demonstrate presentation skills that engage the audience.</p>
<p><b>Leadership – The candidate MUST be able to demonstrate their competence at the following:</b></p>	
Prepare for a bush walk	<p><b><i>Demonstrate the ability to prepare for a bush walk experience that is consistent with the safety management system of the organisation.</i></b></p> <p>Identify and define the purpose of a given outdoor trip.</p> <p>Prepare for a bush walk that includes – (collecting and or creating info on) risk identification and management, consent, access, equipment, weather information, intentions, gear lists, medical information, food and clothing; and emergency procedures.</p>

Weather	<p><b><i>Understand the impact of weather on safety in the outdoor recreation environment.</i></b></p> <p>Obtain weather information from more than one source for a given day and describe the limitations and implications on the planned bush walk.</p> <p>Demonstrate ability to interpret weather condition in the field.</p>
Nutrition and Hygiene	<p><b><i>Demonstrate understanding of nutritional needs and outdoor hygiene</i></b></p> <p>Explain what suitable nutrition would be required for a bush walk including special dietary needs and hydration considerations.</p> <p>Explain hygienic methods of handling, preparing food and preventing water contamination during a bush walk.</p> <p>Describe rubbish disposal and toilet regimes for day trips.</p>
Access/conservation/etiquette	<p><b><i>Demonstrate knowledge of the environment to be visited</i></b></p> <p>Describe the access restrictions to the area (if any apply) and comply with these.</p> <p>Demonstrate and advise participants in minimum impact strategies.</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of local issues (if any apply) and comply with agreements around these</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of responsibilities to and respect for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- site,</li> <li>- other users, people in close vicinity (will include cultural appreciation)</li> </ul>
Moving with a group	<p><b><i>Move safely and confidently with a group in the outdoor environment.</i></b></p> <p>Co-ordinate a group while moving on formed and marked tracks.</p> <p>Select appropriate pace, resting schedule and organisation (includes- leader, tail, load distribution, buddies) for a group to enable a given objective to be achieved.</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge and awareness of cultural and special needs.</p> <p>Demonstrate an appropriate, effective group briefing and activity closure.</p> <p>Organise and motivate a group and individuals in an outdoor environment.</p> <p>Demonstrate effective organisation and management of a group in an emergency.</p>
Risk Management	<p><b><i>Demonstrate effective safety and emergency management</i></b></p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of the risks and risk management strategies for a bush walking environment at all times</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to adjust plans when the circumstances dictate.</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of emergency procedures relevant to the activity and an ability to apply these, including procedures for serious injury, medical emergency, changes to environmental conditions and forced overnight.</p> <p>Select an appropriate route, identify potential hazards and disclose these effectively to others.</p>