

NZOIA™ Cave Instructor Level 2 Syllabus

SCOPE

For those teaching all aspects of caving, including SRT. For those organising and supervising caving programmes.

1. SKILL AND EXPERIENCE

- 1.1.1 It is expected that the NZOIA Cave 2 Instructor will have no less than a further twenty personal days caving in a variety of caves, including some exploration trips, and in addition, no less than a further ten days experience as a cave leader taking groups caving on trips where SRT techniques are used.
- 1.1.2 It is expected that the NZOIA Cave 2 Instructor Instructor should be capable of rigging and exploring multi-pitch caves, should have a high standard of underground water skills (including ducks), should have been a member of at least one extended expedition, ie, an NZSS expedition and should have knowledge of surveying.
- 1.1.3 The NZOIA Cave 2 Instructor Instructor should be capable of organising a comprehensive SRT course
- 1.1.4 The NZOIA Cave 2 Instructor Instructor will hold a current First Aid Certificate (Outdoor First Aid recommended) issued within the last three years..

These are minimum requirements, extra days are advised so that a broad spectrum of variables are experienced.

In the following areas the NZOIA Cave 2 Instructor/leader will be expected to:

2. CONSERVATION CAVING ETHICS

- 2.1.1 Show a good knowledge of natural cave features, the rate and types of processes at work within the cave environment.
 - Speleothems
 - Cave fauna eg habitats, invertebrates,
 - Fossil deposits
 - Sediment deposits
 - Geological features
 - Cave climate
 - Cave lifecycles
 - Types of caves
 - Stream & drip processes
- 2.1.2 Understanding the common impacts of visitation on cave features and processes.
 - Erosion and trenching
 - Sediment transfer (tracking mud)
 - Speleothem breakage and degradation
 - Dig impacts (change in air, destruction or burial of fossil and sediment records etc)
 - Littering and leaving food behind
 - Heating from bodies & CO₂ level alterations.

- Impacts of climbing and rigging (bolts, potential bolts fields, wire strops, use of speleothems).
- 2.1.3 Cave, route selection and party size is justified in terms of cave conservation.
- Minimising impact on caves and their environment
 - Understand reasons for taping in caves and group management around taped zones
 - Route selection is justified using the New Zealand Speleological Society (NZSS) ethical practises found in NZSS handbook.
- 2.1.4 Waste generated within caves is dealt with in accordance to NZSS ethical practices.
- Food scraps and wraps carried out
 - Eating in designated areas to reduce spread of dropped food particles; washing areas after eating if appropriate, or eating on a carried in plastic sheet
 - Carry out whenever possible, body wastes
 - Carry out all batteries and waste carbide
- 2.1.5 Understanding the use of discretion in disseminating information relevant to the location of caves and significant vulnerable features.
- 2.1.6 Detail Understand and demonstrate the NZSS ethical practices.
- Where ever possible encourage the use of electrical lighting
 - Ensure the non removal of cave features
 - Ensure parties do not remove or alter the position of any features specific to cave
- 2.1.7 Understand and respect local access issues
- Waitomo Museum Cave register, payment to land owners
 - Respect landowners
 - DOC permits (Metro, Honeycomb Hill, Puketiti Flower Cave)
 - Cultural, i.e. Maori caves which are Tapu

3. CAVING HISTORY

- 3.1.1 Should show a general knowledge of the history of Speleology and how speleology has developed within New Zealand.

4. EQUIPMENT

- 4.1.1 Should be familiar with the use, care and characteristics of SRT equipment, static ropes and survey gear used in New Zealand.
- 4.1.2 Should be capable of checking ropes, SRT equipment for damage, and know how to service and when to retire a piece of equipment from further use.

5. RIGGING

- 5.1.1 Should be able to rig multi-pitch caves for students.
- 5.1.2 Should be able to rig using natural belays and where necessary place pegs, bolts and rock protection as used in caving.

6. EFFICIENT AND SAFE CAVING PRACTICE

- 6.1.1 Select appropriate caving trips.
- 6.1.2 Organise students for efficient and safe management during caving trips.
- 6.1.3 Organise equipment for efficient and safe management during caving trips.
- 6.1.4 Arrange teaching progression to introduce SRT skills in caves, at the students level of ability.

7. GEAR HANDLING

***Element** - The Level 2 Caving Instructor should be able to demonstrate smooth, efficient handling of ropes. Specifically:*

- 7.1.1 Packing rope bags for leading pitches.
- 7.1.2 Derigging caves

8. CAVE RESCUE

***Element** - The Level 2 Caving Instructor should have an extensive knowledge of the New Zealand Cave Search and Rescue system, especially with respect to the local environment they are working within.*

- 8.1.1 Should be able to deal with emergencies that could occur on caving trips.
Specifically rescues using:
 - Stretchers
 - Pulley systems
 - Counter balance systems
 - Flying fox systems (tyrolean systems)
- 8.1.2 Should be able to retrieve an unconscious or otherwise injured caver from a rope using SRT techniques.
- 8.1.3 Deal with any other problem that might arise in a cave, eg rising water, assisting tired students on ropes
- 8.1.4 Should know their responsibilities and priorities in an emergency: assessment of situation, safe management of team, notifying a “call-out”.