

[Date]

Dear Candidate,

Welcome to the NZOIA Bush 1 assessment course. Please read the following information carefully.

**Dates, Times & Location**
The programme will run from the evening of [Thursday 11th October until the late afternoon of Sunday 14th October 2012]. Please meet your assessors at 7.30 pm on the [Thursday] night at the [CMC Kennedy Hut at Arthur’s Pass].
Directions (if necessary): [The hut is at the end of Brake Hill in AP village, turn right just after the motels and then right again. It is the last building on the right. The CMC Hut is at GR 828/443 on the NZTopo50 BV20, Otira].

This is an introductory session to talk about the assessment and answer any questions. This time may be used to test some theoretical knowledge, but it is not a practical assessment session.

**Assessors**

The assessors for the programme are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Course Director | Second Assessor | Trainee Assessor |
| NamePhoneEmail | e.g John Entwisle 021 149 7824 johnkate@clear.net.nz |  | Name only |

**Food and Accommodation**

Accommodation for the first [Thursday] and third [Saturday] nights has been arranged for you. You will need to [give John your hut fees on arrival. It costs $20 for non-members, $10 for members per night.  **Please bring the exact amount in cash**] or [pay the lodge directly upon arrival]. The [hut/accommodation/lodge] has good cooking facilities, a fridge, hot showers, a wood stove and plenty of storage space. You will be camping on the second night but you will be able to leave your excess gear packed up neatly while you are away.

Catering arrangements are your own responsibility. The [hut/accommodation/lodge] has cooking utensils and facilities, you will need to bring along enough food for the whole assessment. For the camping night, normal tramping food will be required – this is an opportunity to show what you know about camp cooking.

**Transport**

Transport during the course will be coordinated by the assessors depending on the needs of the programme. If personal vehicles are used during the programme, it is assumed that the other candidates will contribute to the running costs. You need to organise your own transport to and from the assessment. There is a list of candidates on the last page, should you wish to try and arrange some carpooling.

**Equipment & Maps**

You will need to bring all the tramping gear you would normally use. This includes tents, cookers, billies etc for camping out. The course will run almost regardless of the weather. The model students on [Sunday] will be given a gear list but it is a good idea to have a few spare jerseys and the like in case their clothing is inadequate.

You will be using various venues in the area. The maps you will need are the [NZTopo50 BV20 Otira, for the personal days and the NZTopo50 BW21 Springfield for the model student day (meeting at GR 968/215)]. Please bring these with you.

**Model Students**

Generally students on assessments are at various skill and confidence levels. It is your job to provide a safe and educational experience for them during the client day.
If a model student group has not been confirmed, and you know of a group who may be interested then please let us know.

**Programme**

There will be presentation components during the assessment. During the model student day you will need to be prepared to give instruction to a group of students on a topic *relevant to the day*. For example, map reading skills, route finding, weather, environmental care. Instruction time will be approximately 20 minutes. You will be allocated an area of instruction in consultation with the assessors on the [Saturday] night.

The assessment will follow a format similar to what is outlined below. Changes may be made depending on circumstances at the time of assessment.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | [Thursday] | [Friday] | [Saturday] | [Sunday] |
| Day  |  | Navigation and other personal skills | Further personal skills, (as per syllabus)  | Model student dayLeadership periodsInstruction sessionsDebrief, finish approx 5.30- 6pm  |
| Late Afternoon/Evening | 7.30 pm - Introductions, outline assessment objectives, written assignments | Camp (emergency shelters, camp skills) | River crossingReturn to base,Trip Planning |  |

**Assignments**

It can be difficult to assess all aspects of the syllabus over a weekend. To help ease the pressure there is an assignment attached to this letter. Please complete the assignment and bring it with you to the assessment.

[Secondly, please collect the situation maps for South Island weather out of the paper for the week preceding and bring along with you as well. Be prepared to make some predictions based on this information (plus what you can observe)] (Alternatively, you can provide the candidates with situation maps).

**Other Information**

Copies of the feedback methods used on assessment, as well as the Assessment Process document have been attached to this letter.

You should already be familiar with the Bush 1 syllabus, this can be accessed from the website [www.nzoia.org.nz/qualifications/bush](http://www.nzoia.org.nz/qualifications/bush). Feedback from past assessments strongly emphasise the value of training.

**Candidate Contacts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Location** | E-mail | **Phone number** |
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**Fees**

The course fee for this programme is $[730]. **You will be invoiced for** **any outstanding fees and it is NZOIA policy *that these are paid prior to the programme starting*.**

The course fee covers less than 50% of the costs to run the assessment scheme.

This includes:
 (1) Assessors fees, and expenses of travel to the assessment venue, food and accommodation.
 (2) Organisational and administrative costs.
 (3) Operational costs of the Technical Sub Committee - the group responsible for monitoring,
 developing and managing the qualification scheme.
NZOIA absorbs over 50% of the assessment scheme costs. This is achieved through significant effort being invested by the executive committee to reduce costs and access funding from organisations such as Sport NZ and Water Safety NZ.

When a participant withdraws from a course:

* Six weeks or more before the course date, being the application closing date, NZOIA will reimburse the course fee in full or will permit the fee to be transferred to another course.
* After the closing date of the course, the fee is non-refundable. It is transferable under exceptional circumstances (e.g. bereavement, medical reasons), medical certificates/other evidence may be required.

All the best for your assessment. Should you have any queries please contact myself or the course director.

Kind Regards

**Programme and Membership Manager**

03 539 0509

admin@nzoia.org.nz