

Bush Leader



Photo: NZOIA Bush Assessment - Borland

Scope and Syllabus

With the support of:



NZOIA™ Bush Leader

Scope

Bush Leader Profile

The NZOIA Bush Leader is able to:

- Use a plan to prepare introductory bush walking experiences
- Instruct groups in the skills required for a positive bush walking experience
- Lead and manage groups walking on clearly formed and marked tracks with bridged river crossings or minor unbridged streams
- Obtain weather forecasts and apply weather interpretation skills
- Provide interpretive information about natural and cultural history and about flora and fauna relevant to the area
- Role model and promote accepted cultural and environmental practices including relevant aspects of Te Ao Māori
- Demonstrate effective safety management

The NZOIA Bush Leader can work independently without direct supervision. Leaders are qualified to operate within an activity specific risk management plan. The Bush leader must be inducted into the site and it is recommended this is completed by a NZOIA Bush 1 or 2. The qualification does not define the skill set required to write or approve such a plan.

This is a foundation qualification and provides a stepping stone towards NZOIA Bush 1.

Scope

The NZOIA Bush Leader can lead bush walks on formed and marked tracks, in open or bush terrain. Walks may extend to the bushline and could extend above the bush line when the weather conditions and forecast are good and snow is absent on sections of the tracks above the bushline. Escape routes must be identified and shelter and reliable two-way communication available. Overnight trips would use serviced and staffed Lodges with reliable telecommunications.

The following are examples of environments that could be within the scope of the NZOIA Bush Leader depending on the characteristics of the group, weather conditions and equipment:

Great Walks

- The Tongariro Crossing is included if all the above conditions are met and the Bush Leader is working under an **audited** Safety Management System (due to the crossing of mountain tops)

North Island

- 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
- 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
- Walks in Tongariro National Park such as through Tama Saddle, Scoria Flat to Whakapapaiti Hut in good weather and the absence of snow

South Island

- Bushline Hut to Mt. Robert 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
- Trips on the Abel Tasman Coast Track or Queen Charlotte Track using serviced and staffed Lodges with reliable telecommunications
- Woolshed Creek on Mt Somers

The following are examples of environments that would be outside the scope of the NZOIA Bush Leader:

- Travel along or across mountain tops above the bush line when the weather is adverse and snow is present
- Overnight trips using Backcountry Huts or camping

Prerequisites

Be a current Full Member or working under an Affiliated Membership of NZOIA

Be 18 years old or over

Hold a current First Aid Certificate (minimum of 12 hours or 2 day course including some direct contact with course tutors)

Have the following experience as evidence in a logbook:

Personal experience – at least 10 days experience (a bush walking day is considered to be at least 4 hours) bush walking

Instructional experience - at least 5 days additional experience as a co-leader or assistant leader in a bush environment

The prerequisite experience requirements are minimums, extra days are recommended.

Registration and Revalidation

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

Progressing to NZOIA Bush 1

As the NZOIA Bush Leader gains more experience they may progress towards gaining the NZOIA Bush 1 qualification. The steps they would follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Bush 1 prerequisites
- Attending an NZOIA Bush 1 training course
- Working with a NZOIA Bush 1 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 can use three types of direct evidence to judge a candidate's competency:

- Workbook answers
- Observation of practical tasks
- Questioning and discussion

Assessment should take place on a formed and marked track

Location awareness and navigation legs should utilise obvious features other than the track being walked on.

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate navigation skills on tracks

The candidate will lead a group for at least one hour, which can be divided into shorter legs, during a day trip on formed and marked tracks.

The candidate will:

- 1.1** Use an appropriate map and identifying; scale, symbols, gridlines, contours and features
- 1.2** Orientate a map using features only and using a compass only
- 1.3** Demonstrate the use of 6-figure grid referencing
- 1.4** Describe the route for a planned navigation leg, including a method for estimating distance and time
- 1.5** Navigate to a specific point on a track, using a map and showing awareness of; pace, distance and time travelled
- 1.6** Demonstrate location awareness on a map using land features

2. Demonstrate bush walking skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 2.1** Walking as part of the group and maintaining contact with the group
- 2.2** Efficient rhythm and pace
- 2.3** Working with the group to manage the frequency and duration of rest stops
- 2.4** Managing clothing and equipment to minimise delays

3. Demonstrate safe practices around rivers and waterways

Using a minor unbridged stream (one which represents little or no risk on crossing and typically has some of the following characteristics; can be jumped across, is ankle deep or less, is slow moving) the candidate will demonstrate and/or describe:

- 3.1** When, where and how to cross. When not to cross
- 3.2** Safe methods for crossing and an understanding of the risks associated with crossing minor unbridged streams e.g. slippery rocks and injury from a fall

4. Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of equipment and clothing commonly used in New Zealand for bush walking

The candidate will:

- 4.1** Role model the use equipment, clothing, and footwear that is in good condition and is fit for purpose for the terrain, season, and weather
- 4.2** Describe and demonstrate the principles of layering
- 4.3** Demonstrate how to pack personal and group equipment for a day trip
- 4.4** For any equipment used demonstrate and/or be able to describe; the properties, common use, advantages, limitations, minimisation of wear, damage checking and storage
- 4.5** Demonstrate use of communications devices appropriate for the location and describe the advantages and limitations of communications devices commonly used on bush walking trips in New Zealand

The Environment

5. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills

The candidate will:

- 5.1** Obtain a relevant weather forecast for the planned trip and provide a verbal summary of the forecast
- 5.2** Describe the implications of the weather forecast for the planned trip and make decisions about the trip based on the forecast
- 5.3** Observe any changes to the weather and modify the trip if necessary

6. Role model and promote accepted environmental practices

The candidate will:

- 6.1** Demonstrate awareness of the responsibilities to the site, land owners, mana whenua and other users
- 6.2** Role model and promote the principles of Leave No Trace

Group Management and Leadership

7. Prepare an introductory bush walking experience

The candidate will prepare a written plan which will contain the following information:

- 7.1** A clearly defined purpose and session appropriate for the group
- 7.2** A logical sequence of progressions and activities
- 7.3** Any consent or access issues
- 7.4** Clothing and equipment list for both individuals and the group
- 7.5** A weather forecast
- 7.6** Risk and hazard identification and management
- 7.7** Emergency procedures
- 7.8** Bi-cultural practices relevant to the area, group and trip

8. Demonstrate effective safety management skills

The candidate will:

- 8.1** Leave intentions information with an appropriate group/organisation/person
- 8.2** Demonstrate an awareness of the risks and appropriate risk management strategies for a bush walking environment
- 8.3** Demonstrate an awareness of any location specific hazards
- 8.4** Have a first aid kit, be familiar with its contents and be able to deal with first aid situations as required
- 8.5** Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their clients
- 8.6** Demonstrate safe practices and good judgement and decision making within the scope of this qualification
- 8.7** Demonstrate erecting an emergency shelter using equipment carried for self and clients taking into consideration terrain and weather
- 8.8** Describe actions to take if the group or individual was lost, stranded or separated
- 8.9** Demonstrate familiarity with the Safety Management Plan they are operating within and describe actions taken if conditions deteriorate

9. Lead and manage a group walking on tracks

The candidate will be responsible for a group of clients walking on formed tracks for a minimum of one hour and demonstrate:

- 9.1** Preparing and briefing the group including setting ground rules, roles and responsibilities
- 9.2** Managing time appropriately in relation to the activity/trip plan and conditions
- 9.3** Coaching, encouraging, motivating clients to ensure they are interested, engaged and have a fun and positive experience
- 9.4** Effective management of the group including; pacing, rest stops, keeping the group together and a system for accounting for everyone
- 9.5** Managing and monitoring clients nutritional and hydration needs
- 9.6** Establishing rapport with clients and an awareness of the emotional, cultural and other needs of the group

Instruction

10. Instruct introductory bush walking skills

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

- 10.1** Wearing and carrying clothing, footwear and equipment appropriate for the session/trip
- 10.2** Pacing and rest stops
- 10.3** Walking as part of a group and what to do if lost or separated from the group
- 10.4** Nutritional and hydration needs
- 10.5** Rubbish disposal, toileting and hygiene

The candidate will use:

- 10.6** A logical sequence of progressions
- 10.7** Clear demonstrations and explanations

11. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited

The candidate will provide interpretive information about:

- 11.1** Natural or cultural history of the area
- 11.2** Tikanga Māori, Mana Whenua, and pūrākau relevant to the area
- 11.3** Local flora and fauna