

Canyon 1



Photo: Neil Silverwood

Scope and Syllabus

With the support of:



NZOIA™ Canyon 1

Scope

Canyon 1 Profile

The NZOIA Canyon 1 is able to:

- Plan and prepare canyon experiences
- Lead and manage groups in canyons
- 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

Scope

The holder of this qualification can organise, instruct and guide in canyons;

- with short pitches of less than 30 metres
- that can be negotiated using simple rope descent techniques
- with physical and water difficulty up to moderate difficulty e.g. canyons up to approximately grade v3a3II*

*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 Full Member of NZOIA

Be 20 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:

Total experience – at least 40 days experience (a canyon day is considered to be at least 4 hours) in canyons including:

Personal experience – at least 20 days personal experience in canyons

Instructional experience – at least 10 days instructing, leading or guiding groups in canyons

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.

Progressing to NZOIA Canyon 2

As the NZOIA Canyon 1 gains more experience, they can progress to gaining the NZOIA Canyon 2 qualification. The steps they can follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Canyon 2 prerequisites
- Attending an NZOIA Canyon 2 training course
- Working with an NZOIA Canyon 2 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 use three types of direct evidence to judge a candidate's competency:

- Written questions/assignment
- Questioning and discussion
- Observation of practical tasks

Technical Competence

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

The candidate will:

- 1.1** Use equipment that is in good condition, well maintained and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current good practice
- 1.2** Describe the advantages and disadvantages of current equipment and clothing used for canyoning and reasons for choice e.g. wetsuits, shoes, helmets, harnesses, buoyancy aids, ropes, descenders, karabiners and other technical gear
- 1.3** Complete a pre-activity check of equipment and describe how to identify worn equipment e.g. surface wear of ropes, tapes and harnesses, internal damage to ropes, wear and stress to metal of karabiners and descenders, wear and stress to helmets, recommended maximum life for use of equipment
- 1.4** Demonstrate how to pack personal and group equipment for a day trip
- 1.5** List the minimum requirements for a day trip including emergency equipment

2. Demonstrate safe and efficient handling of ropes and packs

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 2.1** Coiling and uncoiling of ropes, both in and out of rope bags
- 2.2** Using throw bags and throwing ropes
- 2.3** Proper pack management in a canyon environment
- 2.4** How to tie and use knots that are fit for purpose

3. Demonstrate safe and efficient rigging techniques

The candidate will:

- 3.1** Identify locations in the canyon where rigging is needed
- 3.2** Demonstrate safe and efficient rigging of hand lines, zip lines, abseils, lowering and belay systems using obvious natural or fixed artificial anchors (the candidate will be expected to be able to do this whether the canyon is previously known to them or not)
- 3.3** Identify and describe when releasable systems are required
- 3.4** Demonstrate the rigging of releasable systems
- 3.5** Demonstrate pull-down systems
- 3.6** Organise suitable clip-in systems
- 3.7** Organise suitable belay systems
- 3.8** Demonstrate the use of at least two different belay/abseil devices or methods, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of these two devices or methods
- 3.9** Demonstrate proficiency in rope ascending techniques and applications

4. Demonstrate safe and efficient canyon movement techniques

The candidate will safely and efficiently negotiate water difficulties found in a4/a5 canyons and:

- 4.1** Recognise and describe hydraulic features and the risks associated with water in canyons
- 4.2** Demonstrate moving water swimming techniques
- 4.3** Demonstrate sliding techniques
- 4.4** Demonstrate jumping techniques
- 4.5** Demonstrate safe river crossing techniques and describe the dangers and appropriate use of these techniques

5. Demonstrate canyon rescue skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 5.1** Assisting people through water sections, both calm and turbulent
- 5.2** Rescuing people from turbulent water situations using accepted techniques
- 5.3** Escaping from a canyon using ropes and belay techniques, assisted and unassisted hoists

6. Demonstrate navigation and route selection skills

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 6.1** Effective navigation skills and route selection to and from a given canyon
- 6.2** Safe, efficient and appropriate route selection in a given canyon

The Environment

7. Role model and promote accepted environmental practices

The candidate will:

- 7.1** Demonstrate and/or describe the responsibilities to land owners and other users, including access protocols
- 7.2** Describe the impacts of visitation on a given canyon, including and the impacts of rigging, both fixed and placed anchors
- 7.3** Demonstrate the use of discretion in disseminating information about the location of canyons, access points and vulnerable features
- 7.4** Role model and promote the principles of Leave No Trace including carrying out food scraps and whenever possible, human body wastes

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 from a synoptic map make a general forecast about future weather; wind direction and speed, temperature and precipitation
- 8.3** Observing any changes in clouds, temperature and wind direction and anticipate weather conditions
- 8.4** An understanding of the topography and geology of a given canyon and how rainfall or snowmelt is likely to affect water levels

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

The candidate will understand, and provide interpretive information about:

- 9.1** The natural and cultural history of the area
- 9.2** The geography and geology of the canyon environment
- 9.3** Local flora and fauna

Group Management and Leadership

10. Plan and prepare for a canyon experience

The candidate will prepare a written risk management or activity management plan which includes:

- 10.1** The aims, objectives and purpose of the trip
- 10.2** Route information including; estimated times, emergency and canyon escape routes
- 10.3** Risk and hazard identification and management
- 10.4** Any consent or access issues
- 10.5** A relevant weather forecast and identifies any implications of the weather forecast for the planned trip
- 10.6** Clothing and equipment list for both individuals and the group
- 10.7** Intentions information and emergency contacts
- 10.8** An outline of emergency procedures

11. Understand the nutritional and hygiene requirements for a canyon trip

The candidate will:

- 11.1** Describe the suitable nutrition required for a canyon trip including hydration considerations
- 11.2** Demonstrate and/or describe hygienic methods of handling, preparing food and preventing water contamination during a canyon trip

12. Lead and manage a group during a canyon trip

The candidate will demonstrate:

- 12.1** Effective group briefing including; setting boundaries, ground rules, appropriate and effective risk disclosure
- 12.2** 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
- 12.3** Suitable body positioning and spotting techniques
- 12.4** Organise and motivate a group/individual in a canyon environment
- 12.5** Coaching, encouraging, motivating clients to ensure they are interested and engaged, and have a fun and positive experience
- 12.6** Establishing rapport with clients and having an awareness of their emotional, cultural or other needs

13. Apply effective safety management

The candidate will:

- 13.1** Be familiar with the use of and can describe the advantages and limitations of different methods of communication in a canyon environment e.g. VHF radio, cell phone, GPS tracker, PLB
- 13.2** Have a first aid kit and be able to deal with first aid situations as required
- 13.3** Demonstrate awareness of the risks and appropriate risk management strategies during a given canyon trip and the ability to adjust plans when required
- 13.4** Describe procedures used in the event of; a serious injury, medical emergency, missing group member, group becoming lost to/from canyon, changes to environmental conditions and a forced overnight
- 13.5** Be able to deal with a range of other problems if required e.g. rising water, entrapment, panic
- 13.6** Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their clients
- 13.7** Demonstrate safe practices and good judgement and decision making within the scope of this qualification

Instruction

14. Instruct the canyon skills required for a positive, educational and safe experience

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

- 14.1** Fitting and checking of harnesses, helmets and buoyancy aids
- 14.2** Canyon movement and spotting
- 14.3** Swimming techniques in moving water
- 14.4** Jumping and sliding techniques
- 14.5** The use of belay and abseil devices and methods

The candidate will use:

- 14.6** A logical sequence of teaching progressions
- 14.7** Clear demonstrations and explanations

15. Prepare and deliver a teaching session

The candidate will prepare and deliver a teaching session on any given topic or skill contained in the NZOIA Canyon 1 Scope and Syllabus which demonstrates:

- 15.1** A range of teaching skills e.g. introduction, appropriate voice, language and body language, teaching/visual aids, demonstrations, evaluation of learning
- 15.2** A wide knowledge of the topic
- 15.3** Creating a positive learning environment which encourages enthusiasm, interest and learning