

NZOIA Leader Qualifications

# **Bush Walking Leader**

## **Assessment Guide**

### **For Assessors and Candidates**



Photo: Andy Thompson

## Assessment Notes

This Assessment Guide is to assist assessors with judging a candidates competency. All judgements must be based on current best practice and industry standards. This guide is also to help candidates know what they will be assessed on and what assessment tasks they will be asked to complete.

- Assessors can use 3 types of direct evidence to judge a candidates competency:
  - Workbook answers.
  - Observation of practical tasks.
  - Questioning and discussion.
- Assessment conditions should involve good visibility and be on a marked track.
- Location awareness and navigation legs should utilise obvious features other than the track being walked on.
- A minor unbridged stream is a stream that represents little or no risk on crossing and typically has some of the following characteristics; can be jumped across, ankle deep or less, slow moving.

## Technical Competence

### **1. Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of gear and equipment commonly used in New Zealand for bush walking.**

The candidate will:

- Use gear and equipment that is in good condition and is well maintained.
- Choose clothing and footwear that is appropriate for the terrain, season, weather and shows an understanding of the principles of layering.
- Demonstrate how to pack personal and group equipment for a day trip.
- For any equipment used demonstrate and/or be able to describe; its properties, common use, advantages, limitations, minimisation of wear, damage checking and storage.
- Demonstrate use of communications devices appropriate for the location and describes the advantages and limitations of communications devices commonly used on bush walking trips in New Zealand.

### **2. Demonstrate bush walking skills.**

The candidate will demonstrate the following while walking as part of a group:

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

### **3. Demonstrate navigation skills on tracks.**

The candidate will lead a group for at least 1 hour, which can be divided into shorter legs, during a day trip on formed and marked tracks.

The candidate will demonstrate:

- Having an appropriate map for the location and identifying scale, symbols, gridlines and contours.
- Orientating a map using features only.
- Orientating a map using a compass.
- Location awareness using features only.
- Identifying a specific point using a 6-figure grid reference.
- Estimate distance and time taken to walk a given leg.
- Following a marked track and an awareness of commonly used track marking methods.
- Navigating to a specific point using a map.

### **4. Demonstrate emergency skills.**

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate erecting an emergency shelter suitable for surviving a night in adverse weather conditions (wind and rain), using equipment carried and/or natural features and materials.
- Describe what they would do if they were lost or stranded in the bush and actions they could take to help searchers find them.

### **5. Demonstrate safe practices around rivers and waterways.**

Using a minor unbridged stream (refer to definition in Notes for Assessors) the candidate will demonstrate and/or describe:

- When, where and how to cross.
- 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.
- When not to cross.

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate and/or describe safe techniques for crossing wire suspension or wooden span bridges.

## **The Environment**

### **6. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills.**

The candidate will:

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

### **7. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited.**

The candidate will:

- Provide interpretive information about the natural or cultural history of the area.
- Provide interpretive information about local flora and fauna.

### **8. Understand and role model accepted environmental practices.**

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate or describe awareness of responsibilities for sites visited, and to land owners and other users.
- Role model Leave No Trace principles and/or the New Zealand Environmental Care Code.

## **Group Management and Leadership**

### **9. Lead and manage a group walking on tracks.**

The candidate will be responsible for a group of participants walking on formed tracks for a minimum of 1 hour and demonstrate:

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

## **10. Demonstrate effective safety management.**

The candidate will:

- Leave intentions information with an appropriate group/organisation/person.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the risks and appropriate risk management strategies for a bush walking environment.
- Select a suitable venue/trip and demonstrate an awareness of any location specific hazards.
- Have a first aid kit and be able to deal with first aid situations as required.
- Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their participants.
- Demonstrate safe practices and good judgement and decision making within the scope of this qualification.

## **Instruction**

### **11. Plan and prepare an introductory bush walking experience.**

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

- A clearly defined purpose and session appropriate for the group.
- A logical sequence of progressions and activities.
- Any consent or access issues.
- A gear list for participants and a group gear list.
- A weather forecast.
- Risk and hazard identification and management.
- Emergency procedures.

### **12. Instruct a group in the bush walking skills required for a positive introductory experience.**

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

- Clothing, footwear, gear and equipment appropriate for the session/trip.
- Pacing and rest stops.
- Walking as part of a group and what to do if lost or separated from the group.
- Nutritional and hydration needs.
- Rubbish disposal, toileting and hygiene.

The candidate will use:

- A logical sequence of progressions.
- Clear demonstrations and explanations.