

NZOIA™ Cave Leader Scope and Syllabus

Scope

Cave Leader Profile

The NZOIA Cave Leader can:

- Plan and prepare introductory cave experiences
- Instruct groups in the caving skills required for a positive introductory experience
- Lead and manage groups on familiar routes in low flow streamway caves
- Demonstrate effective safety management
- Obtain weather forecasts and apply weather interpretation skills
- Provide interpretive information about natural and cultural history and about flora and fauna
- Role model accepted environmental practices

The NZOIA Cave Leader can work independently without direct supervision. Leaders are qualified to operate within an activity specific risk management plan but the qualification does not define the skill set required to approve such a plan.

This is a foundation level qualification and provides a stepping stone towards the Instructor level qualifications.

Instructional Scope

The holder of this qualification can organise and manage trips of up to 3 hours duration in horizontal caves where a maximum drop height of 3m is not exceeded. The cave must have easy access in and out for group management and in case of an emergency. The trips will be on well established routes. A low flow streamway may be encountered that does not require swimming or deep water management.

The cave leader can rig, instruct and manage simple handlines to assist clients on short vertical steps.

Pre-requisites

The NZOIA Cave Leader will:

- Be a current member of NZOIA
- Be 18 years old or over
- Hold a current First Aid qualification of at least 2 days duration
- Have the following experience as evidenced in a log book:
 - no less than 5 days personal experience (can include training) in caves
 - no less than 5 days additional experience as a co-leader or assistant leader

Revalidation

The NZOIA Cave Leader qualification remains valid as long as the holder completes NZOIA's revalidation and registration requirements.

Progressing to Instructor level qualifications

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

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Cave Instructor Level 1 pre-requisites
- Attending an NZOIA Instructor Level 1 training course
- Working with a NZOIA Cave Instructor Level 1 or 2

Syllabus

Technical Competence

1. Describe the structure of caving organisations in New Zealand
2. Demonstrate and/or describe the care and correct use of cave gear and equipment
3. Demonstrate efficient and safe caving skills
4. Construct a simple handline system
5. Demonstrate safe assististance techniques

The Environment

6. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills
7. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited
8. Understand and role model accepted environmental practices

Group Management and Leadership

9. Lead and manage a group for an introductory cave trip
10. Demonstrate effective safety management

Instruction

11. Plan and prepare an introductory cave experience
12. Instruct a group in the caving skills required for a positive introductory experience