

3 Season (Spring/Summer/Fall) Group Management Certification

The 3-Season Group Management course will certify you to guide in spring, summer and fall – but not during the winter.

PRE-REQUISITES

To be accepted into the IGA 3 Season (Spring/Summer/Fall) Group Management Course you must be eighteen years of age or older and have:

- An IGA Apprentice, Professional or Master Interpreter Certificate
- Completed at least 5 day hikes on local trails
- A valid 16-hour wilderness first aid with level C CPR certificate or higher

REQUISITES

To be recognized as a 3 Season (Spring/Summer/Fall) IGA Hiking Guide you must maintain:

- Your IGA Apprentice, Professional or Master Interpreter Certificate
- Your IGA 3 Season Group Management Certificate
- A valid 16-hour standard first aid with level C CPR certificate or higher

SCOPE OF PRACTICE (SOP) - 3 Season (Spring/Summer/Fall) IGA Hiking Guide

In Canada, the frame under which you practice your work is called Scope Of Practice or SOP. The SOP outlines the processes, procedures and actions under which you practice your guiding work. It also outlines on what kind of terrain and in what conditions you are allowed to guide

Your 3 Season SOP is limited to day hikes on well-established trails:

- A. recognised by the land manager(s)
- B. on class 1 terrain
- C. in simple conditions
- D. in spring, summer and fall

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the 3 Season certification,

- “Day Hikes” is understood as trips that can be completed in an 8-hour period or less.
- “Well Established Trails” is understood as trails recognised by land managers.
- “Class 1 Terrain” is defined as Simple Terrain Class 1 according to the Class Terrain Rating System - well established trails with little or no steep sections. Class 1 trails are easy to navigate and you would have difficulty getting lost or encountering problems such as dangerous falls or rock slides. The ACMG is a leading authority in the guiding industry and has set the following guidelines for hiking guides as Class 1.
 - Terrain: Low angled rock, snow or ice
 - Movement: Walking
 - Fall possibility: None

- Exposure/consequences: No exposure; may include a minimal chance of injury if a stumble occurs.
 - Guiding techniques: Coaching
 - Examples: Most well-used hiking trails.
- “Simple Conditions” means that you don’t require the use of technical gear to ensure the safety of your guests.

RESTRICTIONS

The guide must ensure that they do not lead clients into areas that are prone to Alpine hazards. Examples of this are:

- Rockfall
- Icefall
- Avalanches
- Glacier travel
- Etc.

This course does not certify you to guide across bodies of water. These include, but are not limited to: lakes, ponds, rivers, and creeks. Because movement around coastal shorelines is also hazardous due to the timings of tides and rapid rise, and fall of water levels, this course does not certify you to lead in tidal zones.

This course does not teach camping skills and it is expected that the guide and group will be able to return to a trailhead, vehicle accessible road or refuge (hotel, lodge, and hostel) within four hours. However, in an emergency, it would be reasonable to assume a group could be caught out overnight, so all guides should be prepared for and plan for this eventuality by carrying suitable equipment.

This course does not cover movement on trails covered in winter snow or ice. These skills are taught in the 4 Season Group Management Course. The 3 Season IGA Hiking Guide should make all reasonable attempts to avoid snow or ice covered trails.

4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) Group Management Certification

This certificate allows you to lead groups in all seasons.

PRE-REQUISITES

To be accepted in the IGA 4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) Group Management Course you must be 18 years or older and have:

- An IGA Apprentice, Professional or Master Interpreter Certificate
- Completed at least 5 day hikes on local trails in spring, summer or fall conditions.
- Completed at least 5 day hikes or snowshoe trips on local trails in winter conditions (for information on local trails, see appendix I)
- A valid 40-hour wilderness first aid with level C CPR certificate or higher

REQUISITES

To be recognized as a 4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) IGA Hiking Guide you must maintain:

- Your IGA Apprentice, Professional or Master Interpreter Certificate
- Your IGA 4 Season Group Management Certificate

- A valid 40-hour wilderness first aid with level C CPR certificate or higher

SCOPE OF PRACTICE (SOP) - 4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) IGA Hiking Guide

In Canada, the frame under which you practice your work is called Scope Of Practice or SOP. The SOP outlines the processes, procedures and actions under which you practice your guiding work. It also outlines on what kind of terrain, and in what conditions you are allowed to guide

Your 4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) SOP is limited to day hikes or day snowshoe trips on well-established trails:

- A. recognised by the land manager(s)
- A. on class 1 terrain
- B. in simple conditions
- C. on simple terrain according to the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) when the avalanche danger is rated as LOW.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this 4 Season certification,

- “Day Hikes and Day Snowshoe Trips” is understood as trips that can be completed in an 8-hour period or less.
- “Well Established Trails” is understood as trails recognised by land managers.
- “Class 1 Terrain” is defined as Simple Terrain Class 1 according to the Class Terrain Rating System - well established trails with little or no steep sections. Class 1 trails are easy to navigate and you would have difficulty getting lost or encountering problems such as dangerous falls or rock slides. The ACMG is a leading authority in the guiding industry and has set the following guidelines for hiking guides as Class 1.
 - Terrain: Low angled rock, snow or ice
 - Movement: Walking
 - Fall possibility: None
 - Exposure/consequences: No exposure; may include a minimal chance of injury if a stumble occurs.
 - Guiding techniques: Coaching
 - Examples: Most well-used hiking trails.
- “Simple Conditions” means that you don’t require the use of technical gear to ensure the safety of your guest.
- “ATES Simple (Class 1) Terrain” is understood as terrain classified as simple (class 1) in the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale.
- “[Low avalanche danger](#)” rating” is defined in the North American Public Avalanche Danger Scale.

RESTRICTIONS

The guide must ensure that they do not lead clients into areas that are prone to Alpine hazards. Examples of this are:

- Rockfall
- Icefall
- Avalanches
- Glacier travel
- Etc.

This course does not certify you to guide across bodies of water.

These include, but are not limited to: lakes, ponds, rivers, and creeks. Because movement around coastal shorelines is also hazardous due to the timings of tides and rapid rise, and fall of water levels, this course does not certify you to lead in tidal zones.

In winter, IGA Guides are not certified to cross frozen bodies of water unless they have other certification that qualifies them to do so.

This course does not teach camping skills and it is expected that the guide and group will be able to return to a trailhead, vehicle accessible road or refuge (hotel, lodge, and hostel) within four hours. However, in an emergency, it would be reasonable to assume a group could be caught out overnight, so all guides should be prepared for and plan for this eventuality by carrying suitable equipment.

MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION

To maintain your 3 Season or 4 Season IGA Hiking Guide certification, the IGA requires that you pay the yearly membership fee, and complete a minimum of 10 hours of professional development each year.

You are also required to maintain your First Aid certification accordingly: 16-hour Standard First Aid for an IGA 3 Season Hiking Guide (Spring/Summer/Fall) Certification and a 40-hour Wilderness First Aid for an IGA 4 Season (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) certification.

If your certification is not maintained as required, it will be considered not valid. Please visit the members' section of the IGA website for more information.

LICENSING AND PERMITS

If you are guiding in a park or other managed region, it is your responsibility to ensure you are in compliance with all commercial, licensing, permitting and insurance regulations that are in place.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Whether you are a volunteer or paid guide, you are liable to your clients and you should carry liability insurance. If you need insurance, please contact us for information on our group insurance program for IGA members in good standing.