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Raft Guide Certification Program

WHAT TRAINING IS PROVIDED?

River Navigation & Rescue: Our program trains and tests 40 practical and written standard raft guide competencies. Included are safety and rescue theory and river-based scenarios, and river navigation training in a stern-mount oar frame. You will do between 10 to 30 familiarization trips with a Certified Raft Guide Examiner (Provincial River Outfitter Association of Alberta).

WHAT CERTIFICATION IS PROVIDED?

Once you have successfully demonstrated all the competencies (see next page), you receive a Guiding Certificate with Oar Endorsement from the Professional River Outfitter Association of Alberta. This certificate is recognized across Canada and internationally, and is valid for 5 years. Training also includes Swiftwater Rescue Certification: Level 2 with Royal Life-Saving Society, valid for 2 years.

Pre-Requisite Certifications:

Standard First Aid with CPR is required. If you do not already have it, we can usually arrange this certification with a qualified St. John's Ambulance instructor for \$175. Wilderness First Aid is preferred for guides, and can usually be taken during training. The cost for Wilderness First Aid \$275.

WHAT DOES THE CERTIFICATION COST?

Our River Guide Certification Program is available as an Internship Program. You will work 90 hours doing general work at our rafting base in exchange for training. We also offer a full-time job as a raft guide for the summer. During training, you spend 25 hours per week training. We schedule an additional 25 hours a week of work at \$13.60 per hour.

Trainees do many tasks; including cleaning, yard work, trip prep and clean up, shuttles, painting, yard care, office work and other tasks. Within a few days of your arrival, we will go over written manuals with you that fully explain our Policies, Procedures and Expectations. Once certified, you are scheduled for up to 44 hours a week. Employment is until approximately the end of August.

WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL YOU NEED?

River guides/ trainees are required to have their own wetsuit, booties, paddle-top, life-jacket, rescue knife and helmet. You can rent this equipment from us, or buy your own. We order equipment at about 30% off retail prices. Any equipment purchases must be paid for in cash when your equipment arrives. We will contact you about 6 weeks before training starts to confirm your equipment preferences.

WHAT IS PROVIDED for ACCOMMODATION?

You are provided a shared room in our staff suite for \$300/month. The accommodation is furnished, and includes all utilities, bathroom, kitchen, laundry and wifi. The staff suite is in the lower part of a rental house, and there are strict rules against noise past 11pm. Basically, partying is not permitted in the staff suite.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE TRAINING TAKE PLACE?

We run the Raft Guide Training Program from our Grande Cache base in Alberta. There, you train on a very technical class 2/3 river in a stern-mount rowing frame. Accommodation is available (next page).

PROGRAM START DATE: May 11, 2018



RAFT GUIDE COMPETENCIES: Practical Components

1. Identify specific features, obstacles and hazards for each specific river section.
2. Safely navigate each specific river section using one or more of the following methods: paddle rafting, oar rafting. Navigation to include 1) effective avoidance of river obstacles and hazards, 2) safe eddy exits, 3) entries and maneuvers, 4) beaching a raft, securing it to shore.
3. Participate in safely lining a raft through, or portaging a raft around, a section of the river.
4. Deliver appropriate and consistent commands to guests in regards to navigation, games and rescue, exits for loading, unloading, riverside repairs and rescue scenarios.
5. Competently inflate, rig, load and secure gear into a raft for a commercial trip.
6. Deliver a complete safety briefing and demonstration as outlined in company policies and procedures.
7. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate water and weather conditions; and knowledge of company policies.
8. Safely load, secure, attach and tow equipment and trailers to vehicles as outlined in company policies.
9. Demonstrate basic assessment and rescue response techniques.
10. Demonstrate basic competency in the following rope and knot systems:
11. Demonstrate the ability to 1) re-right a flipped raft, and 2) recover guests, in a moving current.
12. Participate in the extrication of stuck, pinned and wrapped rafts.
13. Demonstrate an effective response if paddles are lost, or an oar is broken.
14. Participate in a river-based, casualty evacuation scenario.
15. While piloting a raft, successfully rescue a guest from the following scenarios: 1) swimming in current, 2) foot entrapped, 3) caught in a hydraulic, 4) stranded mid-stream.
16. Demonstrate effective use of first aid, safety and rescue equipment.
17. Demonstrate a basic riverside repair to a raft.

RAFT GUIDE COMPETENCIES: Written Components

18. Demonstrate basic knowledge of river morphology, forces, characteristics, features, and terms.
19. Demonstrate knowledge of company policies in regards to river obstacles and hazards.
20. Demonstrate knowledge of the significance of raft order (lead, sweep, etc.).
21. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of industry and company safety standards, and standards in regards to licensing, certification and record keeping.
22. Demonstrate knowledge of safe food handling methods required by company policies.
23. Demonstrate knowledge of company policies and procedures in regards to wildlife.
24. Demonstrate knowledge of company policies and procedures for guest safety in regards to guest equipment, required gear, guest suitability, guest behaviour, navigation, games and rescue, loading, unloading, riverside repairs and rescue scenarios.
25. Demonstrate knowledge of the safety and rescue gear a guide is required to have on trips.
26. Demonstrate knowledge of company policies and procedures in regards to vehicle safety, repair, maintenance and accidents.
27. Demonstrate knowledge of any forms required by the company such as river logs, incident reports forms, etc., and demonstrate an understanding of when and how to fill out such forms.
28. Demonstrate knowledge of policies and procedures in regards to first aid, safety and rescue equipment.
29. Demonstrate knowledge of policies and procedures in regards to guest rescue, gear retrieval.
30. Demonstrate knowledge of company evacuation procedures.
31. Demonstrate knowledge of policies and procedures in regards to phone and/or radio use.
32. Demonstrate knowledge of international river communication and any described in company policies.