

NZOIA™ Bush Walking Leader Scope and Syllabus

Scope

Bush Walking Leader Profile

The NZOIA Bush Walking Leader can:

- Plan and prepare introductory bush walking experiences.
- Instruct groups in the bush walking skills required for a positive introductory experience.
- Lead and manage groups walking on clearly formed and marked tracks with bridged river crossings or minor unbridged streams.
- 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 Bush Walking 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 NZOIA Bush Walking Leader can lead bush walks where the following environmental conditions apply:

- Formed and marked tracks.
- In open or bush terrain.
- Walks may extend to the bush line and could extend above the bushline in good weather conditions (see examples below) and the absence of snow.

Overnight trips would use serviced and staffed Lodges with reliable telecommunications.

The following are examples of environments that could be within the scope of the NZOIA Bush Walking Leader depending on the characteristics of the group, weather conditions and equipment:

North Island

- Day trips in the Auckland Regional Parks. The Hunua and Waitakere Ranges offer many options for day trips on well marked tracks and for which information is readily available.
- Short walks or day trips from Dawson Falls road-end, Egmont National park. Staying below the bushline or extending to the bushline to admire the view there are a variety of opportunities available from the various road-ends on Mt Taranaki.

- Walks in Tongariro National Park such as through Tama Saddle, Scoria Flat to Whakapapaiti Hut in good weather and the absence of snow.

South Island

- Bushline Hut to Mt. Robert summit, in summer conditions and good weather. This walk extends a short distance beyond the bushline to gain a view that is often the objective of the trip. It also offers a quick retreat to the bush in deteriorating weather and two DOC shelters.
- Trips on the Abel Tasman Coast Track or Queen Charlotte Track using serviced and staffed Lodges with reliable telecommunications.

The following are examples of environments that would be outside the scope of the NZOIA Bush Walking Leader:

- Travel along or across mountain tops above the bushline e.g. the Tongariro Crossing, Mt. Robert ridge.
- Overnight trips using Backcountry Huts or camping.

Pre-requisites

The NZOIA Bush Walking Leader will have no less than 10 days (4 hours duration) experience bush walking **and** no less than 5 days additional experience as a co-leader or assistant leader.

The NZOIA Bush Walking Leader will hold a current First Aid qualification.

The NZOIA Bush Walking Leader will be 18 years old or over.

Revalidation

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

Progressing to Instructor level qualifications

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

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Bush Instructor Level 1 pre-requisites.
- Attending an NZOIA Instructor Level 1 training course.

Working with a NZOIA Bush Instructor Level 1 or 2.

Syllabus

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of gear and equipment commonly used for bush walking in New Zealand.
2. Demonstrate personal bush walking skills.
3. Demonstrate navigation skills on tracks.
4. Demonstrate emergency skills.
5. Demonstrate safe practices around rivers and waterways.

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 walking on tracks.
10. Demonstrate effective safety management.

Instruction

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