

Outdoor recreation guides:

- plan or help to plan outdoor recreation activities
- teach the skills needed for outdoor recreational activities
- lead and guide people taking part in the activities
- share their knowledge of the area and educate people about the environment
- ensure that activities are run as safely as possible
- analyse the risk involved in a situation by assessing the weather conditions and people's capabilities
- use and maintain recreation equipment such as ropes and rafts
- look after the environment used for activities
- encourage people to participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Specialisations: Outdoor recreation guides may choose to specialise in a specific outdoor activity such as bungy jumping, white water rafting or caving.

Personal requirements

Outdoor recreation guides need to have:

- a high level of skill in their specific outdoor activity or activities
- knowledge of safety procedures involved in their chosen activity
- knowledge of outdoor survival and first aid
- an understanding of the weather conditions and geography of the area where they are operating
- planning and organisational skills
- good decision-making ability
- excellent communication skills
- problem-solving skills.

Outdoor recreation guides must be good leaders and able to demonstrate good judgement. They must be friendly, responsible, practical, patient and able to relate well to others. They also need to be alert and able to remain calm in emergencies.

Outdoor recreation guides need to have excellent fitness and health and good co-ordination.

How to get into this job

To become an outdoor recreation guide you need to have skill and experience in the outdoor activity that you want to guide. Certain qualifications may also be necessary depending on the recreational activity that you want to be specialise in; for example, a Jump Master's Certificate is required for bungy jump guides. A first aid certificate is also required.

Secondary education: Three years of secondary education is useful to become an outdoor recreation guide.

Pay and job outlook

Salaries vary, but outdoor recreation guides usually earn between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year. Many guides are self-employed or work on short-term seasonal contracts.

The outlook for outdoor recreation guides is good, and the number of people employed in this occupation is expected to increase moderately over the next two to three years.

Related jobs

Diver, Fitness Instructor, Ranger, Recreation Co-ordinator, Ski/Snowboard Instructor, Tour Guide

Further contacts

NZ Mountain Guides Association

MT COOK, (03) 435 1814, info@nzmga.co.nz, www.nzmga.co.nz/

NZ Mountain Safety Council

WELLINGTON, (04) 385 7162, www.mountainsafety.org.nz

NZ Outdoor Instructors' Association (NZOIA)

WELLINGTON, (04) 385 6048, ao@nzoia.org.nz, www.nzoia.org.nz/

NZ Recreational Canoeing Association

WELLINGTON, (03) 384 9301, nzrca@rivers.co.nz, www.rivers.org.nz

Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation

WELLINGTON, 0800 737 486, info@sfrto.org.nz, www.sfrto.org.nz/

Outdoor Recreation Guide

Kaiārahi Mahi Hākinakina

Other names for this job

Adventure Cave Guide, Adventure Tourism Guide, Mountain Guide, Recreation Guide, Walking Companion

What people in this job do

Outdoor recreation guides lead people in outdoor activities, such as white water rafting, sea kayaking, diving, fishing, climbing, trekking and caving, in a variety of outdoor locations.