**Canadian Motorized Backcountry Guides Association**

**Course Outline**

**Level 1 - Trail Guide**

**Winter 2025**

**DESCRIPTION**

This is a basic snowmobile guiding course and exam. This course is for first time guides for guiding groups on groomed trails only with emphasis on 2-person trail sled use and travel under 40km/hr, not in avalanche terrain.

Training topics will include: risk management, navigation, rescue, travel techniques, terrain selection, guiding techniques and emergency procedures.

Participants will be assessed as they take turns guiding the group.

**COURSE/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this course, the students will be able to:

* Demonstrate basic movement skills and groomed trail travel techniques
* Perform Rescue Skills
* Lost rider, stuck sleds
* Improvise transportation of an injured rider.
* Rig a dead sled for trail evacuation.
* Demonstrate Hazard Management
* Plan and organize trips on groomed trails
* Participate in AM and PM guide’s meetings
* Participate in the development of daily route plans.
* Collect and communicate basic avalanche and weather data
* Apply navigation skills in the field. (Map, compass and GPS)
* Demonstrate guiding terrain travel
* Conduct a client pre-trip safety meeting
* Set a track based on snow conditions and client skills
* Demonstrate techniques for group control and setting boundaries
* Apply snowmobile guiding leadership principles.
* Demonstrate winter living skills
* Maintain a high level of professionalism

**PREREQUISITES**

* **40-hour first aid and AST 1**

**Participants must submit a resume of experience.**

**Applications will be reviewed based on:**

*Riding experience in a leadership role in a variety of regions and snowpacks. This is the most heavily weighted application element.*

*Other relevant mountain or outdoor experience. Some examples include:*

*● Other guiding/instructional experience*

*● CAA certificates*

*● ACMG certificates*

*● CSGA certificates*

*● Mountain programs from educational institutions or guiding companies*

*● Rope rescue training / certificates*

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Snowmobile in good working order

*See Guide’s Pack content list*

**EVALUATION**

***See Assessment Rubrics for details***

#### There are eight assessment categories. All categories must be passed to pass the exam.

#### Movement skills

Rescue skills

Hazard management

Navigation

Terrain travel

Winter living skills

Leadership

Professionalism

**DAILY PROCESS**

**Guidelines for Candidate Leads**

* The candidate group is briefed at the end of the PM Meeting, as to the destination, goals, expectations, and leading assignments for the following day.
* Lead role assigned. This person will be guiding the group at the start of the day.
	+ Responsibilities of the Lead
		- Prepare the group for departure
		- Complete pre-departure checks/briefing
		- Lead out from the lodge
		- Navigation and route selection
		- Hazard management
		- Communication
		- Changes of travel techniques
		- Pacing, stops and regroups
* The other candidates will take the role of highly capable participants/guests.
	+ When in this role
		- Let the leader (guide) lead.
		- Be a good guest.
		- Remain vigilant regarding risk management.
		- Only speak up if the leader’s terrain selection / risk management compromises group safety.
* Candidates will be informed where and when they will take over the lead.
* The examiner will follow right behind the leader (second in line)
	+ The candidate leader’s comfort level, ability relative to the assignment, and situational awareness will be continually assessed.
	+ If the situation requires examiner input
		- If it is an emergency
			* The instructor will take over immediately
		- If a discussion is needed
			* Gather the group
			* Ensure clear communication
				+ This may require sleds off, helmets off

**Daily Debrief (1-1.5 hours)**

* Setting – Travel group, quiet, no distractions
* Process – Sequentially through each lead
* Discussion items
	+ Describe the lead (from A to B)
	+ Identify critical decision points
	+ Decision process used
	+ Achievement of learning outcomes
	+ Insight from instructors
* PM Form Questions
	+ How did you address travel risk in the terrain?
		- When were you most exposed today, what were the consequences?
		- Were you too aggressive or too conservative for the given conditions and operational risk band?
		- Describe how your group managed problem terrain to reduce risk.
	+ Did any human factors influence our plan today?
		- Could we have better managed the team?
		- Did we consider the whole team, other contributing factors, teamwork?
	+ Are there any factors affecting your teams plan tomorrow that you need to consider?
	+ What key concepts did I learn today?
	+ What did I do today that promoted my learning and focus; and what can I do differently tomorrow to better retain concepts and gain knowledge?