



National
Outdoor
Leaders
Registration
Scheme

Canyoning

REGISTRATION LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

NOLRS VERSION 2.2

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Outdoor Council of Australia

Ph: (08) 9248 6677 1800 660 540 Fax: (08) 9248 5799

Email: nolrs@outdoorcouncil.asn.au

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Introduction

This document contains information on the minimum skills required to achieve Registration within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) at specific levels within the activity of Canyoning.

Additional documents are available at www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au that provides information about the Scheme and the registration process includes:

- NOLRS *Registration Guide* - information about the registration requirements and process
- NOLRS *Re-registration Guide* - information about the re-registration requirements and process
- *Application for Registration*
- *Application for Subsequent Registration*
- *Application for Re-registration*
- NOLRS *Partnered Assessment Providers* - a guide for organisations that conduct assessment of outdoor leaders, detailing how to have their course outcomes recognised as equivalent to the skill and knowledge requirements of the NOLRS

What is Canyoning?

The *canyon environment* is defined as a deep, narrow, steep-sided (often vertical-walled) valley, usually with a flowing watercourse (perennial or intermittent, resulting in 'wet' or 'dry' canyons). A canyon is formed by erosion of the surrounding rock creating waterfalls, log/rock jams and rock pools. They often occur in Australia in sandstone areas and are common in the Blue Mountains, NSW but also occur in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Canyoning involves the access and egress of *canyon environments* through navigation and bushwalking. Canyoning requires travel through the *canyon environment* and may involve descending vertical (or near vertical) natural features, using ropes and descending (friction) devices and negotiating waterfalls either using abseiling techniques and/or equipment, rock scrambling and swimming in moving and often cold, dark water.

All canyons may have obstacles (eg. slippery rocks, large boulders, rock pools, water slides) and if 'wet', canyons may also include hydrological formations such as stoppers, holes, strainers, undercuts and bodies of extremely cold water.

Canyoning Registration Levels and Descriptions

Horizontal Canyoning registration levels apply to guides and instructors who conduct Canyoning activities in Canyoning environments where there is no abseiling or vertical sections and the terrain is gentle to moderate, although sections of swimming or air bedding may be involved. Vertical Canyoning Guides and Instructors operate in canyon environments which may involve abseiling. Both Horizontal and Vertical Canyoning Guides operate in canyons which may be 'wet' or 'dry'.

Canyoning guides also require bushwalking and navigation skills, depending on the canyon's access and egress. The NOLRS Canyoning Registration Levels specifically address the skills and knowledge required to negotiate a canyon. It is recommended that canyoning leaders also have the appropriate bushwalking skills and knowledge and are NOLRS registered at the appropriate level in bushwalking.

The following registration levels are available within the NOLRS within the activity of Canyoning:

- Horizontal Canyoning Guide
- Horizontal Canyoning Instructor
- Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch)
- Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch)
- Vertical Canyoning Instructor

Horizontal Canyoning Guide:

A person designated as a Horizontal Canyoning Guide has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct activities independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines for the activity, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is readily available should a non-routine situation arise.

A Horizontal Canyoning Guide leads or guides reliant participants in horizontal Canyoning activities. There is no intention of imparting skills or knowledge to participants beyond that which is necessary to enable their safe participation in the Canyoning activity. At the end of a session or program with a guide, the intent is not for the participant to have acquired the skills to independently participate in the activity.

A Horizontal Canyoning Guide may conduct activities only at sites which have documentation which defines the key safety features, and risk management procedures for the activity. *They may only work at sites which:*

- Provide the opportunity for Horizontal Canyoning only
- May have sections of swimming, small vertical drops (which do not require abseils) and slippery rocks
- Have been deemed as appropriate Horizontal Canyoning sites by a person at the skills, knowledge and experience equivalent to a Horizontal Canyoning Instructor. (This analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised local and established Canyoning route, or sites assessed and used by specific organisations)

A Horizontal Canyoning Guide does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new Canyoning site, access and egress, route plans or to independently develop procedures for the conduct of Canyoning activities. They may work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (eg. in vertical Canyoning activities).

A CANYONING Guide (Horizontal) has the knowledge, skills and experience that enable them to:

- Plan for minimal environmental impact
- Undertake risk analysis of activities
- Guide outdoor recreation sessions
- Follow defined Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures
- Facilitate groups and deal with conflict
- Respond to emergency situations
- Apply Sport and Recreation Law
- Plan Outdoor Recreation activities
- Apply weather information
- Demonstrate Horizontal Canyoning Skills
- Guide Horizontal Canyoning trips
- Operate Communication Systems and Equipment
- Respond to Aquatic emergencies

Horizontal Canyoning Instructor:

A person designated as a Horizontal Canyoning Instructor facilitates skill transfer or development to participants in order that they may independently Canyoning in horizontal canyons. This requires the instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess a participant's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Horizontal Canyoning Instructor has the skills, knowledge and experience to operate independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different participant groups and within a broad range of varied contexts that may be complex and non-routine. A person at this level of competence may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices, development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

A Horizontal Canyoning Instructor may only work at sites which have small vertical drops (not requiring abseiling equipment/techniques).

A Horizontal Canyoning Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Horizontal Canyoning Guide as well as additional skills and experience in leadership, emergency response, risk management and training and assessment. A person at this level of competence *may instruct participants to enable them to:*

- Apply horizontal canyoning skills
- Navigate in difficult and trackless areas
- Demonstrate Horizontal Canyoning skills
- Instruct Horizontal Canyoning skills
- Interpret weather conditions in the field
- Manage risk in an outdoor activity
- Plan Outdoor Recreation activities (advanced)
- Co ordinate emergency response

Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch):

A person designated as a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct activities independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines for the activity, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is available should a non-routine situation arise.

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) leads or guides reliant participants in vertical canyoning activities. There is no intention of imparting skills or knowledge to participants beyond that which is necessary to enable their safe participation in the canyoning activity. At the end of a session or program with a guide, the intent is not for the participant to have acquired the skills to independently participate in the activity

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) may conduct activities only at sites, which have documentation, which defines the key safety features, and risk management procedures for the activity. *They may only work at sites which:*

- Provide the opportunity for vertical canyoning (Single Pitch);
- Have natural, artificial and/or fixed anchors;
- Includes sections of swimming, single pitch abseils and negotiating waterfalls.
- Have been deemed as appropriate vertical canyoning (Single Pitch) sites by a person at the skills, knowledge and experience equivalent to a Vertical Canyoning Instructor or Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch). (This analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised local canyoning route, or sites assessed and used by specific organisations).

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new canyoning site, its anchors, access and egress, route plans or to independently develop procedures for the conduct of canyoning activities. They may work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (eg. in multi-pitch vertical canyoning).

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Horizontal Canyoning Guide as well as additional skills and experience in leadership, emergency response, risk management and training and assessment. A person at this level of competence *may instruct participants to enable them to:*

- Navigate in difficult and trackless areas
- Apply vertical Canyoning skills
- Establish belays in canyons
- Guide Canyoning trips (Single Pitch)
- Interpret weather conditions in the field
- Manage risk in an outdoor activity

Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch):

A person designated as a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) has the skills, knowledge and experience to operate independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different participant groups and within a broad range of varied contexts that may be complex and non-routine. A person at this level of competence may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices,

development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) has the ability to deal with complex, unpredictable and non-routine situations and may work at sites which:

- Provide the opportunity for Vertical Canyoning (Multi Pitch);
- Have natural, artificial and/or fixed anchors;
- Includes sections of swimming, multi pitch abseils and negotiating waterfalls.
- Have the potential to provide non-routine situations (eg. adverse weather conditions, complex rescue situations).

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) as well as additional skills and experience on multi-pitch canyons, enhanced leadership, emergency response and risk management knowledge and skills.

A Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) as well as additional skills and experience in leadership, emergency response, risk management and training and assessment. A person at this level of competence may instruct participants to enable them to:

- Apply advanced Vertical Canyoning skills
- Guide Canyoning trips (Multi Pitch)

Vertical Canyoning Instructor:

A person designated as a Vertical Canyoning Instructor has the skills, knowledge and experience to instruct participants in order that they may acquire Horizontal or Vertical Canyoning skills to enable independent participation. This requires the Instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess a participant's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Vertical Canyoning Instructor has the skills, knowledge and experience to operate independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different participant groups and within a broad range of varied contexts that may be complex and non-routine. A Vertical Canyoning Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) as well as additional skills and experience in teaching and assessment.

A Vertical Canyoning Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) as well as additional skills and experience in leadership, emergency response, risk management and training and assessment. A person at this level of competence may instruct participants to enable them to instruct Canyoning skills

A person at this level of competence may therefore instruct participants to achieve the following outcomes:

- Horizontal Canyoning participant
- Horizontal Canyoning Guide
- Vertical Canyoning (Single Pitch) participant
- Vertical Canyoning (Single Pitch) Guide
- Vertical Canyoning (Multi Pitch) participant
- Vertical Canyoning (Multi Pitch) Guide

Canyoning Skill, Knowledge and Experience Requirements

Horizontal Canyoning Guide

Critical aspects of a Horizontal Canyoning Guide skills and knowledge include:

- Ability to identify, and plan for, basic requirements of a Horizontal Canyoning Guide (ie. equipment, food, water, clothing)
- Knowledge of and ability to effectively waterproof equipment (eg. using dry bag or multiple plastic bags)
- Knowledge of first aid procedures relevant to canyoning
- Knowledge of facilitation of a group including basic group leadership techniques and conflict resolution strategies
- Knowledge of, and compliance with, relevant Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- Ability to follow workplace procedures for hazard identification and risk control
- Ability to respond to emergency situations in a canyoning environment
- Knowledge of, and compliance with, relevant laws and legal requirements
- Ability to apply risk analysis principles in a canyoning context.
- Knowledge of environmental impact issues associated with canyoning and methods to minimise impact
- Ability to apply and interpret weather information relevant to an Canyoning activity
- Underpinning knowledge about horizontal Canyoning equipment (advantages, disadvantages, limitations, Australian and international standards, manufacturer's design specifications and recommendations, accepted industry best practice or recommendations)
- Knowledge of equipment storage and maintenance requirements relevant to Canyoning equipment
- Independent selection of Canyoning equipment appropriate to the situation and participants
- Information about horizontal Canyoning routes (appropriate to skill level)
- Ability to plan and navigate a suitable bushwalking route for a group of participants, in reasonable weather conditions, in a difficult and trackless area (ie. on AS Class 5 tracks)
- Ability to use a compass, map reading, route selection and navigation skills in difficult and trackless areas to determine location and avoid obstacles
- Ability to use distance estimation techniques (time, observation of surroundings, pacing) and selection of emergency evacuation routes
- Ability to identify a safe access and egress from the canyon, including planned and emergency routes
- Establishing effective communication and operation of communications equipment to transmit and receive messages
- Ability to plan and guide horizontal canyoning sessions at a number of different locations to suit available resources, environmental limitations and different types of participant groups with differing needs and activity aims
- Maintenance of a participant's physical and emotional safety during a canyoning session
- Ability to brief participants, establish and maintain communication systems appropriate to the participants need's abilities and the environmental factors (eg restricted topography, noise and darkness)
- Ability to identify and respond to aquatic emergency situations using swimming and non-swimming rescue techniques, performing a timely self rescue and rescue of participants in situations including:

- Unexpected submersion
 - Insect sting / snake bite whilst in water
 - Injured swimmer (eg. cold induced cramping)
 - Cold induced breathing difficulties (eg Asthma)
 - Swimmer in difficulty (eg. mobility restricted by equipment)
- Ability to safely negotiate hazards and guide participants to safely negotiate hazards during the activity (eg. slippery rocks and logs, temperature extremes, hydrological hazards and vertical drops)

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of four (4) canyoning sessions (minimum of three (3) hours per session) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past twelve (12) months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of six (6) canyoning sessions (minimum of three (3) hours per session) in different canyons

Horizontal Canyoning Instructor:

Critical Aspects of a Horizontal Canyoning Instructor skills and knowledge include Horizontal Canyoning Guide skills and knowledge **PLUS** the following:

- Ability to identify, and plan for requirements of a horizontal canyoning activity (i.e. equipment, food, water, clothing) where extreme environmental conditions could potentially occur; and/or at a diversity of locations
- Ability to coordinate a response to emergency situations associated with horizontal canyoning situations
- Ability to interpret and apply weather information in the field and apply the interpretation to the horizontal canyoning activity
- Ability to use a compass, map reading, route selection and navigation skills to determine location and avoid obstacles.
- Knowledge of facilitation of a group including advanced group leadership techniques and conflict resolution strategies
- Ability to identify and record the potential risks and hazards in horizontal canyoning activities, and develop management strategies to lessen their potential impact, evaluate risk management and risk management plans

Skills to:

- Plan an instructional session for teaching horizontal canyoning
- Select appropriate resources required to teach horizontal canyoning
- Establish a positive learning environment
- Introduce, conduct and conclude and evaluate a horizontal canyoning instructional session
- Apply appropriate teaching techniques for a horizontal canyoning session, recognising different participant abilities and teaching to suit individual needs
- Provide constructive feedback which enhances the participant's learning
- Demonstrate horizontal canyoning techniques or skills accurately
- Apply knowledge of safety practices to conduct a safe instructional session in accordance with risk management plans, industry guidelines and occupational health and safety requirements

Ability to demonstrate and / or teach the following:

- Independent selection of horizontal canyoning equipment appropriate to the situation

- Underpinning knowledge about horizontal canyoning equipment (advantages, disadvantages, limitations, Australian and international standards, manufacturer's recommendations, industry accepted practice, storage and maintenance requirements)
- Information about horizontal canyoning sites (appropriate to skill level), access and egress
- Environmental impacts of horizontal canyoning and ways to minimise
- Hazards associated with horizontal canyoning and ways to minimise risk
- Knowledge of, and ability to perform and instruct participants to perform aquatic rescue techniques appropriate to horizontal canyoning

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of four (4) horizontal canyoning sessions (minimum of three hours per session; at least three sessions must be instructing) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past twelve (12) months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of six (6) horizontal canyoning sessions (minimum of three (3) hours per session; at least four (4) sessions must be instructing) at different locations.

Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch)

Critical Aspects of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single Pitch) skills and knowledge include a Horizontal Canyoning Guide's skills and knowledge **PLUS** the following:

- Underpinning knowledge about abseiling equipment (advantages, disadvantages, limitations, Australian and international standards, manufacturer's design specifications and recommendations, accepted industry best practice or recommendations)
- Underpinning knowledge of knots (end-of-rope knots, mid-rope knots, rope joining knots, tape knots and friction hitches)
- Knowledge of equipment storage and maintenance requirements relevant to canyon abseiling equipment
- Independent selection of canyon abseiling and belaying equipment appropriate to the situation and participants
- Ability to select natural anchors (eg. trees, rock bollards) and fixed anchors (eg. bolts, chains) for canyon abseiling with consideration to the likely loading, surrounding stability and environmental impact.
- Ability to rig belays in canyons using single and multiple anchors to accommodate different belayer and abseiler abilities at a variety of locations. (Anchors must be selected from a diversity of locations, offering different environmental conditions, likely loading, surrounding stability and environmental impact.)
- Ability to establish canyon belay systems to ensure abseiler and belayer safety, allow escape to facilitate rescue and include a back up belay system, where appropriate.
- Ability to select and use the belay system appropriate to the environment, participant's ability, and organisational requirements (eg. top belay, bottom belay or self-belay)
- Ability to establish and maintain communication systems between belayer(s) and abseiler
- Ability to establish and maintain belay position and manage rope to ensure free flow whilst maintaining appropriate belay tension and abseiler supervision
- Ability to retrieve abseiling rope
- Ability to establish belays in canyons and demonstrate efficient canyon abseiling using a self belay and at least two different types of descending device (eg. plate, tubular, auto-locking devices, friction hitches)

- Ability to negotiate simple obstacles during canyon abseils (eg. slippery rocks, log jams, waterfalls, moving water underfoot and plunge pools)
- Ability to negotiate moving water and maintain body position to avoid hazards (eg. foot entrapment, hypothermia, restriction by equipment)
- Efficient belaying of participants to accommodate different participant abilities and situations and a ability to promptly arrest falls
- Ability to identify safe access to and egress from the abseil area
- Ability to plan and guide canyoning activities incorporating single pitch abseils at a number of different locations to suit available resources, environmental limitations and different types of participant groups with differing needs and activity aims
- Maintenance of a participant's physical and emotional safety during canyoning activities incorporating single pitch abseils
- Response to vertical/canyon abseiling emergency situations and performance of self rescue and rescue of participants including:
 - Release of hair/clothing jams
 - Assistance to frozen abseiler
 - Wedged abseiler
 - Ascent and descent of rope
 - Raising and lowering of conscious abseiler
 - Raising and lowering of unconscious abseiler with assistance

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of four (4) canyoning sessions incorporating single pitch abseils in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue and vertical rescue training within the past twelve (12) months, or participation in aquatic rescue and vertical rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of six (6) canyoning sessions incorporating single pitch abseils at different locations. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue and vertical rescue training within the past twelve (12) months,

Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch)

Critical Aspects of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi-pitch) skills and knowledge include Vertical Canyoning Guide (Single-pitch) skills and knowledge **PLUS** the following:

- Ability to identify, and plan for requirements of a Horizontal Canyoning activity (ie. equipment, food, water, clothing) where extreme environmental conditions could potentially occur; and/or at a diversity of locations
- Ability to coordinate a response to emergency situations associated with vertical canyoning situations
- Ability to interpret and apply weather information in the field and apply the interpretation to the vertical canyoning activity.
- Knowledge of facilitation of a group including advanced group leadership techniques and conflict resolution strategies.
- Knowledge of the requirements of a guide in potentially complex and challenging abseiling situations
- Ability to deal with complex, unpredictable and non-routine situations
- Ability to place artificial protection to establish belays systems (eg. wires, nuts, cam devices)

- Ability to apply multi pitch canyon abseiling skills in vertical multi pitch canyons using a minimum of four different types of descending device (auto locking devices, circular devices, plate devices, tubular devices, improvised devices, in line devices) in a wide variety of contexts in different locations encountering varying hazards, obstacles and situations
- Ability to construct a complex and equalised belay system using multiple anchors and multiple types of anchors, ensuring minimal shock loading.
- Ability to construct and retrieve abseiling rope in complex, multi-pitch canyons
- Ability to establish a broad range of belay systems to accommodate different belayer and participant abilities
- Ability to use a variety of different belay systems and knots in routine and non - routine situations
- Ability to apply considerable discretion and judgement as to the type of belay system required
- Ability to establish suitable safety systems in multi pitch situations
- Ability to manage ropes efficiently in a multi pitch canyon

Ability to perform complex rescues of self, equipment and participants, including:

- Self-rescue in complex situations (eg. multi pitch, numerous obstacles to negotiate, limited human resources, extreme environmental conditions)
- Raising conscious participants in complex rescue situations with assistance from others with limited rescue skills
- Lowering conscious participants in a controlled manner in complex rescue situations with assistance from others with limited level of skill
- Raising or lowering an unconscious person using the assistance of an unskilled person
- Rescuing persons in situations without assistance from others
- Establishment and use of mechanical advantage systems using simple (eg. z-drag) and compound pulley systems (eg. pig-rig) in rescue situations

Performance of complex vertical rescues i.e. rescues which may include the following contexts:

- Multi pitch
- Numerous obstacles to negotiate, eg, ledges, trees
- Limited anchors
- Rescuer is unconscious
- Limited physical resources
- Limited human resources/no assistance
- Extreme environmental conditions

Application of the following rescue methods:

- Raising
- Lowering
- Assisted rescue from above/below
- Assisted rescue from above or below requiring diagonal or horizontal (traversing) techniques
- Pluck off

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of four (4) multi-pitch canyoning sessions in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external multi-pitch vertical rescue training within the past twelve (12) months, or participation in vertical rescue of 'real' participants in multi-pitch canyoning situations.

Vertical Canyoning Instructor

Critical Aspects of a Vertical Canyoning Instructor's skills, knowledge and experience include critical aspects of a Vertical Canyoning Guide (Multi Pitch) skills, knowledge and experience **PLUS:**

Ability to plan and instruct canyoning sessions appropriate to participants needs available resources and environmental limitations demonstrating a capacity to:

- Plan an instructional session for teaching canyoning skills
- Select appropriate resources required to teach canyoning skills
- Establish a positive learning environment
- Introduce, conduct and conclude and evaluate an instructional canyoning skills session
- Apply appropriate teaching techniques for canyoning, recognising different participant abilities and teaching to suit individual needs
- Provide constructive feedback which enhances the participant's learning
- Demonstrate canyoning skills and techniques accurately
- Apply knowledge of safety practices to conduct a safe instructional session in accordance with risk management plans, industry guidelines and occupational health and safety requirements

Ability to demonstrate and/or teach the following:

- Independent selection of canyoning equipment appropriate to the situation in horizontal, vertical (single and multi pitch) canyoning
- Discrimination between features of different equipment
- Underpinning knowledge about abseiling and canyoning equipment (advantages, disadvantages, limitations, Australian and international standards, manufacturer's recommendations, industry accepted practice, storage and maintenance requirements)
- Information about canyoning (appropriate to skill level), access and egress
- Environmental impacts of canyoning and ways to minimise
- Hazards associated with canyoning and ways to minimise risk
- Placement of artificial protection to establish belays systems (eg. wires, nuts, cam devices)
- Multi pitch canyon abseiling skills in vertical multi pitch canyons using a minimum of four different types of descending device (auto locking devices, circular devices, plate devices, tubular devices, improvised devices, in line devices) in a wide variety of contexts in different locations encountering varying hazards, obstacles and situations
- Constructions of complex and equalised belay system using multiple anchors and multiple types of anchors, ensuring minimal shock loading.
- Construction of retrievable abseiling rope in complex, multi-pitch canyon belay systems
- Construction of a broad range of belay systems to accommodate different belayer and participant abilities
- Use of a variety of different belay systems and knots in routine and non - routine situations
- The establishment of suitable safety systems in multi pitch situations
- Efficient management of ropes in multi pitch canyoning

Rescues of self, equipment and participants, including:

- Self-rescue in complex situations (eg. multi pitch, numerous obstacles to negotiate, limited human resources, extreme environmental conditions)
- Raising conscious participants in complex rescue situations with assistance from others with limited rescue skills
- Lowering conscious participants in a controlled manner in complex rescue situations with assistance from others with limited level of skill
- Raising or lowering an unconscious person using the assistance of an unskilled person
- Rescuing persons in situations without assistance from others
- Establishment and use of mechanical advantage systems using simple (eg. z-drag) and compound pulley systems (eg. pig-rig) in rescue situations

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of four (4) multi-pitch canyoning sessions (at least three (3) sessions must be instructing) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external multi-pitch vertical rescue training within the past twelve (12) months, or participation in vertical rescue of 'real' participants in multi-pitch situations.