



Aim

Successful performance at this level indicates that a candidate has the personal skill level and leadership ability required to lead a group of coasteers'. The NCC Coasteering Guide has the skills and judgment to select the appropriate environments for their group which includes clients with little or no coasteering experience.

Following assessment, the NCC Coasteering Guide must have in place or work for, a company that has appropriate insurance if they are employed/deployed to run coasteering commercially. In addition, they must also be approved to work at the specific coasteering site, either by the company's internal coasteering expert or by an appropriately recognised external Technical Advisor (please see the Adventure Activities Licensing Scheme, AALS for this), before being deployed.

The Commercial Coasteering Guide Environment

A stretch of coastline with some areas where it is not easy to access, however, could be accessed with some basic throwline rope support (maximum of a body belay). Swell size on the actual route being used at a maximum of 1m swell at 15 seconds period, trough to crest, breaking against or over the rocks, verified by the Lead Guide at the site at the time.

Training and Assessment Courses

Training

To achieve the NCC Guide Lead, candidates are required to attend some form of training, whether in-house, run by a technical expert, or official NCC Coasteering Guide Trainer. Training courses should take the form of at least 2 days of formal training in personal skills, leadership/group management, and safety and rescue.

Course criteria: See the NCC Coasteering Guide Award Training Notes V7 – 19th October 2020

Course ratios: A maximum of 8 candidates can be trained by one trainer, if the number of candidates goes beyond this, to a maximum of 12 then a second NCC trainer/ Assessor will need to be employed to support the training.

Training is valid for 3 years, during this time, and upon completion of the assessment prerequisites and feedback from the training course, candidates can then put themselves forward for assessment.

Consolidation period

A period of time between training and assessment will be suggested to each trainee guide as part of the feedback process from the training course. During this time, the trainee guide is expected to gain logged experience assisting and part leading commercial groups. Ideally, this will be at a number of sites, with a mix of groups in a range of conditions, working with different guides in a variety of sites.

Assessment

Assessments are normally run, with two sessions, over 1 day with a maximum of 2 candidates being assessed. They are assessed whilst leading a real group, against the criteria written in the NCC Guide Award Assessment Notes V6 – 5th October 2020. If certain areas of the criteria are not seen during the lead session, additional safety and rescue scenarios will be required to be proven. This can be either by a professional conversation or a practical application of a scenario.



Related NCC Policies

See the 'NCC Coasteering Guide Appeals Procedure' for details of how candidates can make an appeal or complaint concerning the content or outcome of the NCC Coasteering Guide Assessment.

Useful Information

Please refer to the relevant NCC Coasteering Guide Training or Assessment Notes.

Training Prerequisites

There are none, however, due to the nature of the course running most often over a period of 2 days, some prior knowledge of swell, waves, tide, wind, and first aid would be beneficial. As not all of this will be covered in enough detail on the training course for most novices. If this is identified as a gap in knowledge, it will be an identified action point to work on, given as feedback for the consolidation period.

Recommended training (not a prerequisite, but very useful to have)

- A 2-day First Aid Certificate
- RNLI/RLSS/SLSGB Beach lifeguard
- BC Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning or Equivalent (e.g. RYA Day Skipper)
- BC White water Safety & Rescue course
- Evidence of coasteering familiarisation at least 10 hours
- Environment awareness - the WiSE Course

Assessment Prerequisites

- The normal state would be for a candidate to have sat an NCC Guide Training Course within the previous 3 years.
- A recognised 2-day first aid
- Previous logged experience with an NCC Guide/recognised Provider: provide documented evidence of the minimum of 30 hours training/experience as outlined in the NCC document "Training Advice for Coasteering Guides – V3 2015".
- During at least 24 of these hours the candidate should include a mixture of roles such as acting as an assistant/2nd guide and sessions participated in with peers.
- These hours need to include a range of sea states and group types
- Candidates must be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment. Candidates under the age of 18 can take the award but cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18.
- Have coasteering experience of 3 different geographical areas.

Equipment

Candidates should have personal and group equipment appropriate for the remit of the award and relevant to the assessment environment.



Assessment Day

The assessment is competency-based, assessed over the whole process of leading a group coasteering from start to finish. The choice of venue made by the candidate should give the opportunity for a range of conditions up to the maximum of the remit (see the NCC Coasteering Guide Award Assessment Notes V6 – 5th October 2020).

When the assessment does not give these conditions, the Guide can only be signed off for being able to work in sheltered water by the Assessor which will be shown on the certificate. There will need to be an additional check by either a National Trainer, an External Technical Advisor or an inhouse Technical Advisor to ensure that the Personal Skills of the Guide are at the standard to lead groups in this environment.

Assessment group

The assessment group to be lead is to be made up of a minimum of 3 real clients to a maximum of 6.

Technical Syllabus

The candidate is required to perform all skills in up to sea states at the maximum environmental remit, comfortably with confidence in their own ability.

Part A – Personal Coasteering Skills

- A.1 Swimming in the upper end of the remit over a distance of 200m, in a proactive manner.
- A.2 Entering and Exiting in a range of areas at the top end of the remit.
- A.3 Be fit and healthy enough to operate at the upper end of the remit for a 3-hour coasteering session.
- A.4 Make correct decisions about the way that a variety of features can be used, or not, or navigated along the way. E.g. be happy playing in a coasteering 'play spot' that they would manage with a group at the top end of the remit.
- A.5 Demonstrate the ability to move around the intertidal zone in a confident, safe and determined manner i.e. to easily move over rocky and slippery terrain.

Part B – Rescue Skills

- B.1 Have knowledge of and demonstrate the skilful application of, appropriate rescue skills at the upper end of the remit
- B.2 Be able to use the group to self-rescue
- B.3 Be conversant with different methods of towing
- B.4 Be conversant with different methods of using throw lines



Part C – Safety, Leadership and Group Skills

- C.1 Skilful application of leadership principles
- C.2 Appropriate leadership strategies, judgment and decision making
- C.3 Safety awareness and risk management
- C.4 Working with multiple guides and assistant/2nd guides
- C.5 Exercise appropriate group control and management and show concern for the general welfare of other group members
- C.6 Demonstrate the capability to manage a range of incidents
- C.7 Provide guidance through top tips and handy hints
- C.8 Be able to connect how we can learn from coasteering activities to the challenges that are threatening our coastlines and communities
- C.9 Provide appropriate guidance, where necessary to group members regarding their movement on rocky or slippery ground.

Part D – Theory

- D.1 Equipment and design
- D.2 Safety (includes Coastguard and Rescue Services)
- D.3 Planning weather, waves and tides
- D.4 Wellbeing, health and first aid
- D.5 Group awareness and management
- D.6 General knowledge
- D.7 Leadership responsibilities
- D.8 Water features and hazard

Part E - Environment

- E.1 A knowledge of codes of conduct/legislation relating to local native marine life and coastline ecology