



Additional Requirements for Commercial Overnight Backcountry Ski Mountaineering Permits

Due to the additional skills necessary for a safe activity, all guides will possess ski mountaineering and rescue skills, including avalanche recognition, snow safety awareness, technical rescue skills, and technical rescue skills in an alpine environment. All guides will also have Wilderness First Responder (equivalent or greater), Leave No Trace Training and CPR certifications. Copies of current emergency medical certifications are required to be presented to the park as part of the guide application evaluation process. Training required will be commensurate with the terrain of the trip.

New trip leaders will be required to have a minimum training of three apprentice trips with an experienced leader prior to soloing in that role. Resource protection, park regulations, park values and safety must be included in the training. Training trips will be documented showing time and date of trips and signature of the experienced leader conducting the trip. Documentation must be provided upon request.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park will require one of the following lead guide certifications for entities applying for Ski Mountaineering CUAs. A guide approved in the permit application must be the lead guide on any trip attempt. Guides must be employed by the permit holder at the time of their trip. Contracted guides will not be authorized. Prior experience in the Sierra is a requirement.

Commercial Overnight Ski guides shall possess certification from:

1. Professional Ski Instructor Association (PSIA) certification;
2. Advanced Ski Mountaineering from the Nordic Patrol System and Advanced Avalanche certification from a recognized entity.
3. An equivalent nationally recognized certification with documented training and experience for overnight trips into wilderness. The park will review guide qualifications to determine if they are equivalent to the accepted certifications listed above.