



Commercial Use Authorization Permit

Additional Requirements for Commercially Guided Mountaineering Authorization:

Due to the additional skills necessary for a safe activity, all guides will possess certified intermediate climbing and technical rescue SAR skills, including basic 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. Guides requiring NPS review for authorization must submit their application at least 30 days prior to their first trip.

Mountaineering: Mountaineering: Defined as Class 4 on Yosemite Decimal System (YDS), and/or requiring ropes or other technical ascension equipment Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park will require one of the following lead guide certifications for entities applying for Mountaineering Guide CUAs. A guide approved in the permit application must be the lead guide on any mountaineering 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.

1. American Mountain Guiding Association (AMGA) Alpine Guide Certification.
2. AMGA Ski Mountaineering Guide Certification.
3. IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Association) a.k.a. the UIAGM (Union Internationale des Associations de Guide de Montagne) Guide Certification (full guide).
4. Equivalent, documented training and experience. The park will review guide qualifications to determine if they are equivalent to the accepted certifications listed above.

The park has reviewed the technical guiding requirements for these certifications and has deemed the requirements for each level of certification adequate for the hazardous terrain encountered by Mount Whitney and other peaks located within the park boundaries. This includes the ability to move safely with clients through areas of steep snow, ice and technical rock.