

COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATION FORM

**New River Gorge National River
Gauley River National Recreation Area
Bluestone National Scenic River
P. O. Box 246, Glen Jean, WV 25846
Phone: 304-465-6517**

CUA # _____ - _____ - Climbing Services

Applicant Name: _____

Organization's Tax Information Number: _____

Organization Name: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____ Email Address: _____

As an applicant, are you? (Mark one box with "X")

Individual

Corporation

Partnership/Association

State Government/State Agency

Other, explain: _____

If you are an individual or partnership, are you also a citizen(s) of the United States?

Yes No

Note: If organization is claiming non-profit status, documentation verifying federal tax exemption status must be provided.

Please Attach The Following Additional Information:

1. Current Brochures (two examples, if applicable)
2. Advertising Materials
3. Description of client charges and fees (what client fees cover). Attach Rate Sheet
4. Documentation of Insurance Coverage (Certificate of Insurance) meeting NPS CUA requirements
5. Assumption of Risk Form (if used)
6. Description of Proposed Service. Please include: season or main period of operation, who is your client/audience, services offered to clients, location, frequency, party size, does this service include the use of motorized equipment or stock animals?
7. Trip Itineraries
8. Guide/Staff Identification. Please identify all guides/staff who would be working under your authorization. Attach copies of current resume for Lead Guides, along with current organization and/or guide(s) accreditation/certifications. Include a statement addressing your requirements for employment, staff training programs, etc. Include a copy of guides' current CPR/First Aid cards and Leave-No-Trace training certificates. Notification must be given in writing of any staffing changes during your operating season.
9. Safety Plan (including, but not limited to evacuation and emergency procedures, contact points, use of cellular phones, first-aid equipment and training, etc.)

Have you ever, or are you currently providing commercial services under a license/permit issued by a state or federal land management agency? If "yes", please indicate the agency (agencies), location(s), dates, type of service offered, and all previous names used in these operations.

Yes No

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am of legal age and authorized to do business in West Virginia and that I have personally examined the information contained in this application and that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature (Sign in Ink)

Date

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Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

Please return the completed application form to: Program Specialist, Commercial/Special Park Uses, New River Gorge National River, P. O. Box 246, Glen Jean, WV 25846. Should there be any questions regarding this application or the CUA process, please contact the Program Specialist at 304-465-6517.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY: Minimum Requirements

The following is general information regarding insurance and indemnity requirements. Exact insurance requirements and liability minimums, specific to your proposed commercial service activity, are noted below.

A. GENERAL. The CUA holder shall save hold harmless, defend and indemnify the United States of America, its agents and employees for losses, damages or judgements and expenses on account of fire or other peril, bodily injury, death or property damage, or claims for bodily injury, death or property damage of any nature whatsoever, and by whomsoever made, arising out of the activities of the CUA holder, and his/her employees, subcontractors or agents under this authorization. The types and amounts of insurance coverage purchased by the CUA holder shall be approved by the Superintendent. The CUA holder shall, annually, or at the time insurance is purchased, provide the Superintendent with a Statement of Concessioner Insurance and Certificate of Insurance as evidence of compliance with this section and shall provide the Superintendent thirty (30) days written notice of any material change in the CUA holder's insurance program hereunder.

The Superintendent will not be responsible for any omissions or inadequacies of insurance coverages and amounts in the event the insurance purchased by the CUA holder proves to be inadequate or otherwise insufficient for any reason whatsoever.

B. PUBLIC LIABILITY. The CUA holder shall provide Comprehensive General Liability insurance against claims occasioned by actions or omissions of the CUA holder in carrying out the activities and operations authorized hereunder. Such insurance shall be in an amount commensurate with the degree of risk and the scope and size of such activities authorized herein, but in any event, the minimum limits of liability shall be **\$1,000,000** covering bodily injury and property damage. If claims reduce available insurance below the required per occurrence limits, the CUA holder shall obtain additional insurance to restore the required limits. An umbrella or excess liability policy, in addition to a Comprehensive General Liability Policy, may be used to achieve the required limits.

From time to time, as conditions in the insurance industry warrant, the Superintendent reserves the right to revise the minimum required limits.

All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation against the United States of America or shall provide that the United States of America is named an additional insured.

National Park Service
New River Gorge National River
Gauley River National Recreation Area
Bluestone National Scenic River

Compliance Checklist for Commercial Use Authorization Application

Applicant/Organization: _____

Date: _____

Proposed Activities: _____

Permit #: _____ - _____

Answering "Yes" to one of the following may be a red flag for NEPA or other compliance.

Natural Resources

Yes

No

Do you have to dig holes, install posts or disturb the ground surface in any way?

Do you have to cut vegetation?

Will any part of your activity, including spectators or media, occur outside designated roads, trails or recreational sites?

Do you need to take vehicles onto any roads that are gated or otherwise not currently open to motor vehicles?

Do you need to use any vehicles or equipment larger than a pick-up truck?

Cultural Resources

Do you have to dig holes, install posts or disturb the ground surface in any way?

Do you need to go inside any building that isn't presently open to the public?

Socioeconomic

Are you requesting other visitors be excluded from the area while you're using it?

Do you have to close a lane, stop traffic, even momentarily, or other control traffic?

Will there be media coverage of any sort?

Do you have to put up any signs, temporary paper or otherwise?

Do you have any contracted services, such as catering?

Will your group or your contractor be selling anything?

Remarks:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER
GAULEY RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BLUESTONE NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER
104 Main Street
P.O. Box 246
Glen Jean, West Virginia 25846



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Effective: 01/2008

SUBJECT: New River Gorge National River has established that the following criterion will be utilized when reviewing alternative climbing guide certification and determining its equivalency to the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) single pitch instructor level.

Organizations applying for recognition as a climbing instructor certifier must provide training materials, such as course syllabus or textbook, for evaluation by the park's rock climbing program manager to ensure the course of instruction covers three primary areas: 1) the organization applying for certification equivalency approval will certify in writing climbing instructors have successfully completed the course curriculum and are capable of providing safe climbing instruction; 2) the course will include a minimum of 24 hours of instruction, plus an exam where proficiency is measured; 3) the course will cover contemporary baseline skills for safe climbing as follows:

KNOTS AND ROPE MANAGMENT

At a minimum the curriculum will include:

- Bowline, figure-eight and double figure-eight, overhand, figure-eight follow-through, water knot, double fisherman's, munter, and prussic.
- Instruction in what knots need to be "backed-up".

BELAYING AND DEVICE TYPES

- An overview of intermediate, slick, grabbing, and locking belay devices. Examples: figure-eight, ATC, Gri Gri, etc.
- The proper use and operation of the chosen device in order for the device to be effective.

ANCHOR POSITION, ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEMS

- Creating sound anchors that will be used as workstations.

What we are looking for:

- Setting the anchor directly above the climb.
- Sound placements of the anchor.
- Anchor system distributes the load equally.
- Anchor system has redundancy (if any point in the system was to fail, there must always be another part that will take the load).
- The load is spread equally.



- Instruction includes the use of natural anchors (trees, rocks, etc) and artificial anchors (stoppers, camming devices, etc.).
- Safety aspect of loading a carabiner (three-way loading, loading a carabiner over an edge, cross loading, etc.).
- Overview of self-equalized and pre-equalized anchors.

BELAYING

- Instruction in top and bottom belays.
- Belays will include a back-up (catastrophe knot, back-up belayer).

RAPPELLING

- Back-up belay using a separate belay line or “fireman’s belay”.
- The use of a “releasable” rappel.
- Safety considerations (loose items, clothing, etc.).

ASCENDING TO ASSIST CLIMBERS

- Ascending a single or double strand rope using friction hitches.
- Counter ascending a rope to rescue/assist a climber.

THE USE OF PULLEYS AND RAISING SYSTEMS TO RESCUE OR ASSIST A CLIMBER

ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF INSTRUCTION

- Inspecting equipment and when it should be replaced.
- Environmental concerns (lightning, rock falls, etc.).
- Promoting “leave no trace”.

In order to limit impact to the Bridge Buttress climbing area, climbing trips will be limited to a maximum of fifteen (15) individuals per trip, including the guide(s), with a guest-to-guide ratio not to exceed four (4) guests to one (1) guide. The Bridge Buttress designated climbing area includes: The Ogre; The Pinnacle; North Bridge Wall; Central Bridge Wall; The Roc; South Bridge Wall; Bridge Buttress; Rock Shelter Cave; Overlook Buttress; The Rostrum. Two groups of fifteen may climb in the Bridge Buttress Climbing Complex at the same time as long the two groups are climbing separately, with one group being in The Pinnacle climbing area and the other group being in any of the other climbing areas of the Bridge Buttress Climbing Complex. In order to limit the impact to all other designated climbing areas, climbing trips will be limited to a maximum of ten (10) individuals per trip, including the guides(s), with a guest-to-guide ratio not to exceed four (4) guests to one (1) guide. Guest count will include individuals in the group watching the climbing activity. Operators are limited to four trips per day park-wide (with two groups of fifteen climbing at the same time at the two separate climbing areas in the Bridge Buttress Climbing Complex, as outlined above, being considered one trip). Groups accessing designated climbing areas must be actively involved in rock climbing/rappelling activities and not utilizing the climbing access areas for guided/group hiking.