

FL (Equine Environments) Scope of Practice

The Field Leader (Equine) certification certifies a person to lead groups into Low-Risk Trail Riding Terrain (see page 18) on a one day hike providing the following conditions are met

- 1) The Field Leader (Equine) Leader is being adequately supervised. Adequate supervision will typically mean:
 - a) The supervisor has 5 or more years of leadership experience, of which 2 years have been with participants of the same demographic as those the FL (E) graduate is leading.
 - b) The performance of the FL (E) leader is actively monitored through direct observation from time to time and there is a comprehensive trip reporting system in place.
 - c) The supervisor takes steps to ensure that the trip reporting system is capturing the information required to form a judgment of the leader's performance.
 - d) The supervisor is committed to creating participant centered programming.
- 2) The Field Leader (Equine) Leader has inspected every part of the terrain that their group will be using at least once in the previous 12 months.

The following *restrictions* apply:

- 1) If the Field Leader (Equine) Leader is under the age of majority in the Province in which they are leading, they must be directly supervised by an adult who is also has the FL (E) certification or higher. Directly supervised means that the adult is leading the group and is able to observe or at least be in verbal contact with the minor throughout the trail ride.
- 2) If the Field Leader (Equine) Leader is a new leader, they must be directly supervised by an experienced Leader who also has the FL (E) certification or higher until a qualified supervisor judges that they have attained the skill, experience, and judgment to become an equal partner in the leadership team, or leader of the trail ride.

The following *extensions* apply:

- 1) The Field Leader (Equine) Leader may lead a group in higher risk terrain where they hold a valid certificate for the risk factor for that terrain. All other risk factors must remain compatible with the descriptors for Low Risk Trail Riding Terrain. For example: the Field Leader (Equine) Leader with a 'Winter' certification can lead 1 day trips in a winter environment into terrain that otherwise qualifies as 'Low Risk Trail Riding Terrain' in every respect.
- 2) The OCC is unable to vouch for any leader that leads in terrain not covered by the above scope of practice. However, the OCC recognizes that there are many experienced outdoor leaders who do not have formal terrain specific certification. In part this situation exists because accessible, affordable, and appropriate certification has not been available. Collectively, these people are providing an excellent service to the community and the majority are competent to lead in the terrain they do. However, such leaders should be aware that the most serious incidents have typically happened to more experienced leaders who did not have terrain specific certification. The OCC recommends that such leaders, and their supervisors, take the necessary steps to assure themselves that other recognized outdoor leaders with equivalent or higher qualifications agree that they have the necessary skill, experience and judgment to lead the ride.