

Field Leader (Winter) Scope of Practice

The Field Leader (Winter) certification certifies a person to lead a group on a one day winter trip in a 'Low risk Natural Environment' as defined by the Outdoor Council of Canada providing the following conditions are met:

- 1) The Field 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 Field Leader is leading.
 - b. The performance of the Field 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 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 is under the age of majority in the Province in which they are leading, they must be directly supervised by an adult who has the same Field Leader 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 event.
- 2) If The Field Leader is newly certified as a winter leader, they must be directly supervised by an adult who also has the Field Leader Winter 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 event.

The following **extensions** apply:

- 1) The Field Leader (Winter) may lead a group in Class 2 winter terrain where they hold a valid certificate for the risk factor that makes the terrain Class 2. All other risk factors must remain compatible with the descriptors for Class 1 terrain.
- 2) 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 of them are competent to lead in the terrain they do. However, such leaders should be aware that the most serious incidents occurring to custodial groups 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 in that terrain.