

Field Leader (Overnight) Scope of Practice

The Field Leader (Overnight) module certifies a person to lead a group on multi day, 'three seasons' trips in 'Low Risk Natural Environments' 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 FL has inspected the site their group will be using once in the previous 12 months.

The following **restrictions** apply:

- 1) If the FL a minor in the province in which they are leading, they must be supervised by an adult with the same FL certification or higher. Supervised means that the adult is leading the group and can observe, or be in verbal contact, with the minor during the event.
- 2) If The Field Leader is newly certified as an overnight leader, they must be directly supervised by an adult who also has the Field Leader Overnight 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.
- 3) With a FL (Winter) and a FL (Overnight) certification, the Field Leader can take others on overnight events in the winter. However, building snow shelters and shelters made of natural material is beyond this scope of practice. Additional training is required for these shelters.

The following **extensions** apply:

- 1) The Field Leader (Overnight) may lead a group in Class 2 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) The OCC recognizes that there are many experienced outdoor leaders who do not have terrain specific certification. This situation exists because accessible, and appropriate certification has not been available. These people are providing an excellent service to the community and most of them are competent to lead in the terrain they do. However, such leaders should be aware that 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 in that terrain.