



Aim

Successful performance at this level indicates that a candidate has the personal skill level and leadership ability required to lead a group of coasteers. The NCC Coasteering Guide has the skills and judgement to select the appropriate environments for their group which includes clients with little or no coasteering experience.

Following a successful assessment, the NCC Coasteering Guide must have in place, or work for, a company that has appropriate insurance if they are employed/deployed to run coasteering commercially. In addition, they **must** also be approved to work at the specific coasteering site, either by the company's internal coasteering expert or by an appropriately recognised external Technical Expert (please see the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, AALA for this), before being deployed.

The Guided Coasteering Environment

A stretch of coastline which may include some areas where it is not easy to access, however access and egress could be safeguarded with some basic spotting or throw line rope support (e.g. a hand line). Swell size on the actual route being used, would not normally exceed a maximum of 1m swell at 15 seconds period, trough to crest, breaking against or over the rocks. This is specific to the location in use and would be verified by the Lead Guide at the site at the time.

Training and Assessment Courses

Training

To achieve the NCC Guide Award, candidates are required to attend some formal training, whether run in-house, run by a coasteering technical advisor, or delivered by an NCC Coasteering Guide Award Provider. Training courses should take the form of at least 2 days of training in personal skills, leadership/group management, and safety and rescue.

Course criteria is available in the NCC Coasteering Guide Award Training Notes.

Course ratios: A maximum of 8 candidates can be trained by one trainer. If the number of candidates goes beyond this, to a maximum of 12, then a second NCC Guide Award Provider will need to be employed to support the training.

Following the completion of a training course, an assessment would normally be completed within 3 years.

Consolidation period

A period of time between training and assessment will be suggested to each trainee guide as part of the feedback process from the training course. During this time, the trainee guide is expected to gain logged experience assisting and part leading groups. Ideally, this will be at a variety of sites, with a mix of groups in a range of conditions, working with different guides.

Assessment

Assessments are normally delivered over 1 day with a maximum of 2 candidates being assessed (minimum 6 hours contact time). They are assessed whilst leading a real group of participants, against the criteria written in the NCC Guide Award Assessment Notes. If certain areas of the criteria are not seen during the lead session, additional safety and rescue scenarios will be required to be proven. This can be either by a professional conversation or a practical application of a scenario.



Related NCC Policies

See the 'NCC Coasteering Guide Appeals Procedure' for details of how candidates can make an appeal or complaint concerning the content or outcome of the NCC Coasteering Guide Assessment.

Useful Information

Please refer to the relevant NCC Coasteering Guide Training or Assessment Notes.

Training Prerequisites

- A willingness to learn and a commitment to continued improvement are essential attributes for participants.
- Be an individual member of the NCC and have registered for the award
- Evidence of logged coasteering familiarisation of at least 10 water hours
- Due to the nature of the course, running most often over a period of 2 days, some prior knowledge of swell, waves, tide, wind, and first aid would be beneficial, as not all of these subjects will be covered in enough detail on the training course for most novices. If there is a lack of knowledge in any subjects, it will be identified as an action point to work on, given as feedback for the consolidation period.

Recommended training (not a prerequisite, but very useful to have)

- A 2-day First Aid Certificate
- RNLI/RLSS/SLSGB Beach lifeguard
- RLSS NWSMP with Level 2 Beach & Level 3 In Water Rescue
- BC Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning or Equivalent (e.g. RYA Day Skipper)
- BC White water Safety & Rescue course
- Environment awareness - the WiSE Course

Assessment Prerequisites

Be able to provide clear documented evidence of-

- Completion of a NCC Guide Training Course within the previous 3 years or:
- Previous logged experience as Coasteering Guide or training with a recognised provider
- Evidence of the minimum of 30 hours training/experience as outlined in the NCC document Training Advice for Coasteering Guides. During at least 24 of these hours the candidate should include a mixture of roles such as acting as an assistant/2nd guide and sessions participated in with peers.
- Coasteering experience in a variety of coasteering venues within at least 2 NCC Regions. Coasteering experience should be evidenced in different swell, tidal conditions and group types as well as venues that are varied in their geology and coastal geography.
- A recognised face to face 2-day first aid or valid beach lifeguard award
- **Individual Membership** of the NCC (please note, company membership does not provide this)
- Registration for the NCC Guide Award

Candidates should be aged 18 or over at the time of assessment. Candidates under the age of 18 should contact a provider before booking onto an assessment, it is possible to attend an assessment,

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but the candidate cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18. The provider must hold an ALAA License when working with unaccompanied under 18s

Equipment at assessment

Candidates should present themselves at the assessment with personal and group leadership equipment appropriate and relevant to the assessment environment.

Assessment Day

The assessment is competency-based, assessed over the whole process of leading a group coasteering from start to finish as a solo guide. The choice of venue made by the candidate should give the opportunity for a range of conditions and or sea features.

The assessment report will indicate the sea conditions under which the assessment occurred, assessments can be completed in calm conditions. The deployer would be responsible for assessing the competency of the candidate to deliver coasteering within the local site and conditions.

Assessment group

The size of the group should be not less than 3 and no more than 8 as well as being inline with the Standard Operating Procedure that the candidate is working to. The group should represent a suitable 'novice' group for the venue. Where the candidates SOP's state the use of an assistant there must be the opportunity provided on the assessment to assess the guide in a 'solo lead' capacity as well as working with the assistant.

Technical Syllabus

The candidate is required to perform all skills comfortably, with confidence in their own ability, in the sea conditions present on the assessment.

Part A – Personal Coasteering Skills

Part C – Safety, Leadership and Group Skills

Part B – Rescue Skills

Part D – Theory

Part E - Environment