



# NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB



## **NZAC Section Trips**

The New Zealand Alpine Club has a long history of helping people to learn the skills they need to climb safely through instruction courses. If you have been on a course, or have the right skills already, a section trip is a great way to practice and embed those skills on an objective-based adventure.

The trips are co-ordinated by one of the regional NZAC sections and led by an experienced climber or climbers. They are not technical instruction courses, although they are a great way to learn how to approach climbing objectives safely and effectively. Also, importantly, they are not guided. The trip leaders are not professional guides; they are volunteering to help you learn how to take responsibility for your own safety.

Most section trips involve moderate to intermediate mountaineering objectives, but can also be focussed on rock climbing or more serious summits if the skill level of the participants is appropriate.

## Who's involved

### *Section trip co-ordinator*

This position is appointed by the local section committee. Their role is to help the trip leader prepare and plan for the section trip, and to organise the promotion of the trip to section members.

### *Trip leader*

This is proficient climber who wants to help those with less experience achieve climbing goals. Their role includes:

- Trip logistical organisation
- Creating trip information including gear and clothing lists
- Delegating roles and responsibilities
- Assisting the vetting of trip applicants
- Co-ordinating the trip safety planning with the input of all participants
- Ensuring intentions are left
- Leading the trip at the location
- Taking a leadership role in the event of an incident or emergency

### *Trip assistant leader*

Is a role delegated by the trip leader during safety planning, usually to the next most experienced participant. They may be the leader of a group if the trip splits up, and are to take on the leadership role if the trip leader becomes incapacitated.

### *Participants*

Everyone on the trip is a participant, and is responsible for their own and other's safety. There is an expectation that all participants will engage with the safety planning process.

## Safety

For a number of reasons relating to the environment and activities, section trips are considered high risk activities. Going on a trip with those with more experience than you can be a great way to learn how to identify, understand and deal with these risks.

The trip leader has access to NZAC resources to help facilitate the process of safety management. This helps all the participants to be able to:

- Better understand what the risks are
- Make a decision whether or not the trip is suitable for them
- Give their consent if they believe it is
- Help identify and deal with the risks involved
- Know what to do if something goes wrong

## **Trip Information**

The trip leader and section trip co-ordinator will create a trip information document for participants prior to the advertising of the course including information like:

- Skill and fitness level requirements
- Trip Logistics
- Gear and clothing lists
- Schedule

## **Field Communications**

The NZAC requires that on section trips the group is able to call for help if it is needed. Each group must have field communications that allows this to be achieved.

## **Incidents**

An incident is something that causes or could have caused harm or damage. In the event on an incident the trip leader is to:

- Assess the severity of the incident
- Make a decision as to whether it is appropriate to continue or discontinue the trip
- Report the incident to the NZAC head office.

Guidelines for how to do this are available to all trip leaders.

## **Emergencies**

An emergency may be defined as

- Serious injury to a person, physical or mental
- Fatalities
- Any requirement for air evacuation
- Substantial damage to property
- Severe negative impact on the NZAC image

In the event of an emergency the course leader is to co-ordinate the response using the Emergency Management Procedures, a laminated copy of which is held by each trip leader and assistant leader.