

# NZAC INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

## BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE

### AUCKLAND SECTION



NEW ZEALAND  
ALPINE CLUB

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of July and 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of July

**LOCATION:** Tukino, Mt Ruapehu

**ACCOMODATION:** Tukino Alpine Ski Club

**COURSE FEES:** \$795

**Who is this course for?**

The NZAC Basic Snowcraft course is designed for experienced trampers and those with a passion for the outdoors who are looking to gain additional skills to travel safely in alpine terrain where snow and ice is often encountered.

This is an alpine course suitable for experienced trampers. Please **ensure you meet the minimum requirements**.



**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)**

**At a minimum, those wishing to register for the Basic Snowcraft Course must:**

- Have some experience in backcountry tramping
- Have the fitness required to enjoy multiple full days in the mountain environment
- Be enthusiastic to learn new skills in New Zealand's alpine environment.

**Course Syllabus:**

**Preparing for the alpine environment**

- Clothing / equipment
- Trip planning resources (avalanche forecast / weather forecasts / guidebooks)
- Weather
- Basic Navigation

**Being and moving in the alpine environment**

- Use of ice axe (dagger, plunging, step cutting)
- Walking and kicking steps on snow without crampons (edging / step kicking)
- Walking on snow with crampons (flat, 50 / 50, front pointing)
- Identification of the safest route for travel in the alpine environment
- Avalanche Awareness

**Changing Circumstances**

- Self-belay and self-arrest technique with and without and ice axe
- Use of avalanche safety equipment including transceiver search
- Techniques for camping in snow and emergency shelters (snow shelters / bothy bag).

## Course Outcomes\*:

### Preparing for the alpine environment

- An ability to plan simple trips into the alpine environment
- The knowledge to pack and select appropriate equipment for a trip into the alpine environment
- An ability to interpret simple weather forecast and observations
- An ability to identify simple feature on a map and a basic ability to relocate using the map and terrain features.

### Being and moving in the alpine environment

- An ability to use both an ice axe and mountaineering boots as an effective tool for traveling in the alpine environment
- The ability to fit crampons and travel effectively in the alpine environment using them
- An awareness of safe travel through the alpine environment with particular attention to avoiding avalanche terrain and the identification of other potential hazards
- A basic awareness of the avalanche phenomenon and why angle, aspect, altitude, slope shapes, trigger points and terrain traps are significant

### Changing Circumstances

- An awareness of techniques to prevent slips and trips
- The ability to stop an unintentional slide in mild snow covered terrain
- The ability to confidently perform a companion rescue in the event of an avalanche
- An awareness of snow shelters and how to camp in the snow

Someone who has these skills combined with the knowledge from a NZAC Avalanche Awareness course is considered a **NZAC Novice Mountaineer** and is likely to have the skills and ability to travel on Mount Cook Grade 1+ Terrain (Non Glacial)

\*Course outcomes may vary depending on participant ability and course conditions. This is a guideline, individuals must assess their own ability after a course.

## Instruction

The course will be run in a minimum 1:3 instructor to participant ratio. All participants must agree to follow the instructors directions. 6 participants maximum per group. The course has a maximum capacity of 23 participants. The instructors on this course are trained by the New Zealand Alpine Club however do not necessarily hold a formal qualification.

## Pre Course Theory Nights

Gear evening – 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 7pm – Oxfam NZ offices, Eden Terrace

Theory evening – 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 7pm – Oxfam NZ offices, Eden Terrace

Note, you must be able to commit to attending the theory evenings.

## Course Location

The course will be run out of Tukino Alpine Ski Club, Mt Ruapehu. The ski club has a full commercial kitchen, and bunk rooms.

## Course Schedule

The main Snow Craft weekend will be run over the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of July with a follow up Grad Trip being run on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. The Grad Trip is an opportunity for Snowcraft participants to groove their skills – weather and condition dependent, this is often a great opportunity to get up onto the summit plateau.

## Departure Time

To ensure that we are able to get the most out of the two weekends we will be requiring all attendees to take off the Friday before hand so that we depart Auckland early. Departure time to be confirmed, but plan for an early start - 6a.m

## Course Fees

The course fees include all transport to and from the mountain (departing Auckland), accommodation, course resources and two instructional evenings prior to the main event. The course fees for 2021 are \$795.

**Full payment** on acceptance secures you a place on the course.

## **Food**

Meals are not included and are organised within your groups - we find this is a great way to bond together and make full use of the commercial kitchen we have at our disposal at the Tukino Alpine Sports Club.

## **Gear list**

A gear list can be found at the end of this document.

## **Emergency Situations and Risk Disclosure**

The Course Instructors will have Emergency Management Procedures in place and field communication devices to immediately contact rescue services in the case of an accident or emergency. It is encouraged to take your own personal locator beacon if you own one.

The natural environment and climbing activities can involve risks. While recognising that the course organisers and instructors are doing their best to manage these risks, and agreeing to accept their direction whenever required, you must accept personal responsibility for your own actions and safety. You must also accept to follow the instructions of the Course Leader and other instructors at all times.

All participants on the Course are expected to be as honest and transparent as possible about their experience and fitness as part of their application. If a participant's lack of fitness/ability severely affects the running of the course the participant(s) may be asked to not participate for certain activities. Arrangements may be made to evacuate the participant(s) at their own cost. The instructor is the final arbiter in these decisions.

## **Covid 19**

The NZAC is committed to provide a safe environment for all course participants, instructors, and the wider climbing community. To ensure this we will be following government guidance on what is deemed to be best practice regarding Covid-19. Participants are asked to not attend courses if they are unwell or are awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test. Please ensure you bring a face covering to the course, this may be required at times when physical distancing may not be possible. The use of face coverings will be in alignment with Ministry of Health guidance.

Courses will go ahead at Alert Level 1 and 2. If the course is cancelled due to an increase to Alert Level 3 or 4, in the first instance we will reschedule the course. If this is not possible then course participants will be refunded. Refunds will also be given if your local region is placed under Alert Level 3 or 4 and you are therefore unable to travel. The NZAC reserves the right to implement changes to the course in order to comply with any specific government regulations. The NZAC's interpretation of the government regulations will be final.

## **Refund Policy**

Up to a month out from the first theory evening participants wishing to forfeit their place on the course are eligible for a full refund. Two weeks out from the first theory evening participants are eligible for a refund of 50% of the course fees. No refunds will be given if participants choose to forfeit their place on the course less than two weeks from the first theory evening.

## **Additional Courses**

The New Zealand Alpine Club recommends that those interested in attending Basic Snow Craft also attend the following courses to round out your knowledge as a Novice Mountaineer:

- [Avalanche Awareness Course](#)
- [Navigation Course](#)

## **Ways to Get Involved**

For further information and ways to get involved in the club, keep an eye on our website (<https://www.aucklandclimber.org.nz>) and social media (<https://www.facebook.com/nzacauckland> and <https://www.instagram.com/nzacauckland>) for courses, trips, meets and club nights.

## Snow Craft Gear List

The below list covers all the items you will need for the upcoming course. The club will be providing avalanche equipment and group safety equipment.

Mountaineering equipment and clothing is not cheap. We encourage people to attend the gear evening prior to making purchases. We also encourage people to borrow and hire where possible.

The club has a limited number of crampons and ice axes available for hire as does Bivouac Outdoor and Living Simply.

When in doubt about any of the below please contact the course co-ordinator or your instructors.

<b>Required Items</b>	
<b>Boots</b>	<p>These boots must be stiff enough to fit crampons. The BMC has a good video on choosing boots and crampons: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulhbiKyn6vc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulhbiKyn6vc</a></p> <p>Boots to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Sportiva <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kararakorum, Trango Tower, or Nepal Evo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lowa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alpine Expert GTX</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Salewa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vulture, or Raven</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Crampons</b>	<p>Steel or stainless steel crampons with anti-balling plates. They must be compatible with your boots. Refer to the above video.</p> <p>Crampons to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petzl - Vasak</li> <li>• Black Diamond - Serac</li> <li>• Grivel – G12</li> </ul>
<b>Ice Axe</b>	<p>A lightweight straight or slightly bent shaft axe is sufficient for the course. The BMC has a good video on how to choose an ice axe: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ffw23bAt6U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ffw23bAt6U</a></p> <p>Ice Axes to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petzl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Glacier, Summit, or Sum'Tec</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Black Diamond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raven, Swift, or Venom</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grivel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ G Zero, G 1, or Nepal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Climbing Helmet</b>	<p>A climbing specific helmet – bicycle or kayaking helmets are not appropriate.</p> <p>Helmets to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petzl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meteor, or Elios</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Black Diamond</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Half Dome, or Vector</li> </ul>
<b>Pack</b>	<p>A pack with a capacity of 50L is sufficient, it will preferably have external attachment points for crampons and ice axe(s).</p> <p>Packs to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Diamond - Speed 50</li> <li>• Osprey – Mutant 52</li> <li>• Lowe Alpine – Mountain Ascent</li> </ul>
<b>Headlamp</b>	A headlamp with fresh and spare batteries.
<b>Sunglasses</b>	Category 3 or 4 sunglasses with side protection.
<b>Ski Goggles</b>	Ski Goggles for storm conditions.
<b>Jacket</b>	<p>A wind and waterproof jacket with a hood large enough to fit over a helmet.</p> <p>Jackets to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pac Plus, Alpine Shift, Alpine Pro</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MacPac <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nazomi</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outdoor Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ascent Shell, Interstellar</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Over-pants</b>	<p>Wind and waterproof pants, preferably with full length leg zips however this is not a requirement and may be hard to come by.</p> <p>Pants to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Face – Dryzzle Full Zip Pant</li> </ul>
<b>Beanie</b>	A warm, tight fitting beanie that can be worn under a helmet. Wool or polypropylene preferred.
<b>Baseball Cap</b>	A baseball cap to keep sun off the face that can be worn under a helmet. Ensure it does <b>not</b> have a button on the top.
<b>Insulated Jacket</b>	A warm mid weight jacket that can be worn under your hard shell jacket.
<b>Gaiters</b>	Full calf length – zip or Velcro front closure is preferred.
<b>Glove Liners</b>	2 – 3 pairs of thin glove liners.
<b>Gloves</b>	A waterproof pair of insulated gloves that can be worn over the glove liners. Ski gloves are sufficient.
<b>Softshell Pants</b>	A light pair of softshell/hiking pants.
<b>Thermal Base Layers</b>	1 -2 pairs of tops and pants – polypropylene or wool is preferred. No cotton.
<b>Socks</b>	At least 2 pairs of warm socks that work with your boots.
<b>Water Bottle</b>	A non-breakable water bottle is preferred over hydration bladders. 1 – 2L capacity is sufficient.
<b>Sun Block</b>	High protection.
<b>Lip Balm</b>	High protection.
<b>Personal First Aid Kit</b>	A small first aid kit for personal use. The club provides larger more comprehensive group first aid kits.
<b>Pack Liner</b>	A heavy duty plastic bag will suffice however a waterproof pack liner is preferred.
<b>Sleeping Bag</b>	A 3 season sleeping bag for use in the lodge.
<b>Pillow</b>	A pillow for use in the lodge.
<b>Toiletries</b>	Personal toiletries for use in the ski lodge.
<b>Optional Items</b>	
<b>Older Over-pants and Jacket</b>	For use when practising self-arrests.

<b>Hut Clothes and Shoes</b>	Comfortable clothes for wearing around the lodge in the evening.
<b>Camera</b>	
<b>Ear Plugs</b>	