



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB



2021 CNI Intermediate Snowcraft Course

Course summary

Dates	Course Offering 27 th -29 th August 2021
Timeline	Meet Location - Park and Ride, National Park. Meet Date - Friday 27 th August Meet Time - 1600 Depart Date - Sunday 29 th August. Depart Time - 1600
Fee	\$525 per person
Notes	<p>The course is run on Mount Ruapehu over two days, and is hosted by the Central North Island NZAC Section. The lead instructor is NZOIA Alpine 2 qualified, and is assisted by volunteers trained by the New Zealand Alpine Club. The course operates with a maximum ratio of 4 students to 1 instructor. Logistically postponement of the course is not an option, so the structure of the course may vary depending on weather conditions but the content covered will be identical. Cancellation will only happen under extreme weather conditions, with a full refund of costs.</p> <p>The course fee includes the cost of your hire equipment for the weekend (ice axes, crampons, helmet, avalanche safety gear, harness, snow anchors and ropes), accomodation for Friday and Saturday night, and dinner on Saturday evening. There will also be a virtual meeting before the instruction weekend to discuss gear requirements, and technical rope skills to practice.</p> <p>This course meets the required standards for the NZAC Alpine Climbing Pathway, which has been developed to give a clear understanding of how a climber can progress their climbing skills. NZAC Alpine Climbing Pathway</p>

Who is this course for?

The NZAC Intermediate Snowcraft course is designed for NZAC Novice Mountaineers (or those with an equivalent skill set) who are looking to gain additional skills to travel safely in alpine terrain where straightforward steep snow and ice is encountered, and where abseiling on descent could be required.

This is an alpine course suitable for NZAC Novice Mountaineers who have consolidated their skills through trips on grade 1+ alpine terrain. Please ensure you meet the minimum requirements.

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

- Have some experience in backcountry tramping
- Have undertaken personal trips on Mount Cook Grade 1+ terrain.
- Be competent in the course outcomes detailed in the [NZAC Basic Snowcraft Course Outline](#)
- Have the fitness to enjoy multiple full days in the mountain environment.

Course Syllabus:

Preparing for the alpine environment

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

Being and moving in the alpine environment

- Use of two ice axes, for daggering and piolet traction on moderately steep snow
- The use of crampons on steeper terrain
- Building basic snow or rock bollard anchors
- Pitched climbing on simple terrain
- Single-pitch abseiling with the use of prussic
- Identification of the safest and most efficient route for travel on moderate alpine terrain

Changing Circumstances

- Building basic snow anchors: horizontal/vertical mid clip snowstake, vertical top-clip snowstake, ice axe belay, snow bollard, abseiling off rock bollards
- Use of basic climbing calls
- Techniques for comfortable and unplanned 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
- An ability to locate and interpret a range of weather forecasts, avalanche forecasts, and other relevant information
- An ability to identify simple features on a map and a basic ability to relocate using the map and terrain features
- An awareness of basic physical training principles applicable to the mountain environment

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
- An ability to use two ice axes and crampons to effectively ascend and descend moderately steep snow where pitching is not normally required including front-pointing and French Technique
- Can demonstrate multiple cramponing techniques appropriate to the snow type and gradient
- Can build a basic snow or rock bollard anchor
- The ability to demonstrate appropriate abseil technique
- Can demonstrate safe, efficient travel techniques in the alpine environment with particular attention to avoiding avalanche terrain

Changing Circumstances

- An awareness of techniques to prevent slips and trips
- Has an awareness of a variety of possible anchor types and can select an appropriate anchor for the situation
- Understands the importance of and demonstrates clear communication when ropes are used
- An awareness of snow shelters and how to comfortably camp in the snow, including unplanned bivouacs

Someone who has these skills is considered a NZAC Intermediate Mountaineer and is likely to have the skills and ability to travel on Mount Cook Grade 2+ Terrain (that has no glacial related complications)

*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 1:4 instructor to participant ratio, 4 participants maximum per group. All participants must agree to follow the instructors directions. The course has a maximum capacity of 12 participants. The lead instructor is NZOIA Alpine 2 qualified and is assisted by volunteers trained by the New Zealand Alpine Club, however do not necessarily hold a formal qualification.

Pre Course Theory Night

Due to the wide geographical spread of the central north island section, we will conduct an interactive online session several weeks leading up to the course date. This will be held during a week day in the evening.

Content of the discussions will be informal and open for discussion, it will however include discussions on technical gear and basic knots required for the course, which each participant should be proficient with before arriving at the mountain.

Course Location, Dates and Times

- Location: Mt Ruapehu, Whakapapa ski field
- Meeting Place: Park and Ride, National Park [Link](#) (number 32 on map)
- Meeting Time: 1600
- Dates: Friday 27th - Sunday 29th August
- Accommodation: NZAC Ruapehu Hut [Link](#)

Course Schedule

Please note, this timeline summarises the general format for the trip. The final course itinerary may vary due to any special requirements or due to changing weather conditions on the day. A finalised course itinerary will be communicated to you prior to the start of the course.

Friday: We will meet at the Park and Ride, National Park [Link](#) (number 32 on map) at 16:00. After assigning everyone with their course gear/checking over equipment and assessing road conditions, we will carpool up to the ski field car parks before walking as a group to the [NZAC Ruapehu Hut](#) where we will be based for the weekend. The walk to the hut will take approximately 1 to 2 hours, head touches will be required.

Saturday: There will be a full day of instruction to learn the necessary skills of moving safely up and around the mountains in steep terrain. In the evening, we will make a shared dinner and reflect on the day's learnings.

Sunday: The instruction will continue, with an emphasis on applying and practicing the skills you have learned. We usually leave the mountain around 15:00, and will have a debrief in National Park Village to answer any remaining questions and plan some trips to build on your new skills.

Gear List

The *minimum* gear you are required to bring on the weekend is summarised below. Please contact us before the course if you have any questions about the gear you require. This is a basic guide of what you will need to start winter climbing, we will discuss mountaineering equipment during the pre-course evenings.

Item	Details
Ice axes, crampons, helmet, avalanche safety gear, harness, belay device, prussic cord, snow anchors, ice anchors and ropes.	These items will be provided to you on the Friday evening as part of the course, but you may opt to use your own if they are suitable.
Head torch	
Pack	
Stiff-soled tramping boots (waterproofed)	You must be comfortable walking in these in the snow for a whole day.
Warm socks	3 pairs.
Thermals (polyprops or merino)	2 sets.
Polar fleece top	
Shorts	To go over thermal bottoms.
Waterproof shell jacket/parka	
Waterproof overtrousers	
Gaiters	Calf-length.
Hat and Balaclava	Wool or fleece.
Gloves	2 pairs - wool or polyprop. One pair can be ski gloves.
Sunglasses	2 pairs - preferably one pair is ski goggles.
Sunscreen	
Lip Balm	
Sunhat	Baseball cap with scarf or legionnaires hat.
Water bottle	
Personal first-aid kit	For blisters, etc.
Camera	Optional.
Hut shoes	Optional.
Pillow case	Extra clothing can be used to make a pillow.
Warm sleeping bag	

Some of the gear listed above will be worn on the day the rest will be carried in your pack in case the weather changes. Keep in mind that weather conditions on Mount Ruapehu can be very cold.

Food

You will need to provide your own dinner for Friday evening, breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday along with any drinks or snack foods you would like. The kitchen facilities at the hut are excellent for a backcountry hut. More details about the accommodation can be found at the following [LINK](#)

The food for Saturday night's meal is included in the course fee. We will divide into two groups, half to prepare the meal and the other half to do the washing up. If you have any special dietary requirements, please include these in the relevant section of the registration form so we can accommodate. Most cooking and eating utensils are provided for in the hut.

Carpooling

If you are willing to drive, or are in need of a ride, we will try to assist in organising carpooling amongst the participants. Please fill out the relevant section of the registration form to indicate your interest. You will also need to allow some funds for carpooling if you choose to share a ride.

Accommodation

We will be staying in the [NZAC Ruapehu Hut](#). There is a kitchen with cooktops and a microwave for us to use. There is also a drying room. This is first class alpine comfort for an alpine hut!. More information about the lodge facilities can be found at [NZAC Ruapehu Hut](#).

Medical Conditions

In order for us to be fully informed, please make us aware of any medical conditions or medication requirements that you have by including this information on the relevant section of the registration form. All details will remain confidential to the instructors. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please don't hesitate to contact us before the course.

Course Prerequisites

To attend the Intermediate Snowcraft Course, you must be a current New Zealand Alpine Club member, have completed a basic snowcraft course or equivalent and undertaken personal trips on grade 1+ terrain. More information about how to join the club can be found on the [NZAC website](#). Your membership with the NZAC will expose you to a world of climbing and mountaineering opportunities and includes a lot of great benefits.

Attendees must be over the age of 18 on the start date of the course to be eligible to attend.

With respect to your fitness, you do not need to be an elite athlete, but you will enjoy the course more if you have a reasonable level of fitness. Ideally you will be comfortable hiking with a 10-15kg pack and will be comfortable in your boots for the duration of the course. Feel free to speak to us for any advice.

Insurance

We recommend you take out travel insurance and/or personal insurance as part of your preparation for participating on NZAC Instruction courses.

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.

How do I register for the course?

To register for the course, please complete the registration form at the following link.

[Course Registration Form](#)

Once you have registered by completing the form, we will be in contact with you to advise of the next steps. You will be allocated a preliminary spot on the course based on how early you register and provided you meet the [necessary requirements](#) to attend the course.

If your application is successful you will be contacted with payment details. Once full payment is received your registration will be confirmed.

Contact Details and Further Information

The only daft questions are the ones you don't ask! It is sometimes too late to resolve an issue once we are up on the mountain. If you have any questions regarding gear requirements or anything else, please let us know. You can contact Mike Greer regarding bookings/payment/course programme and gear.

Please feel free to come along to the CNI Section Meetings in the time leading up to the course. These meetings will give you the chance to meet the course instructors, get to know your fellow participants, discuss any gear requirements, or ask any questions you may have. Please let us know if you are interested and we can send you the details of when and where these meetings will be held.

Course Coordination and Instruction

Mike Greer

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