

NZAC INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE

CANTERBURY & WESTLAND SECTION



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

30 July | 1 August 2021 OR 14 August | 16 August 2021

LOCATION: Arthurs Pass & Surrounds

ACCOMODATION: NZAC Arthurs Pass Lodge

COURSE FEES: \$265.00

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](#)

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 1:4 instructor to participant ratio. All participants must agree to follow the instructors directions. 4 participants maximum per group. The course has a maximum capacity of 12 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 Night

A pre-course theory night will be held on Tuesday evening 27th July OR 10th August (for the respective courses) at the NZAC Head Office.

Course Location

The course will be based from the NZAC Arthurs Pass Lodge, field instruction will be conducted at or near local ski fields, exact locations will be decided during the course and dependant on snow conditions and weather forecasts

Course Schedule

Tuesday 27 July / 10 August– Pre-course theory night 7.00pm to 9.30pm

- Boot check & crampon fitting
- Equipment discussion
- Logistics – transport etc

Friday 30 July / 13 August

From 5.30pm: Arrive & Settle in. Dinner (provided), Clean up

7.30pm – 9.30pm: Trip planning, Weather & Avalanche presentations

Saturday 31 July/14 August

From 6.00am: Breakfast (self-catered), tidy up & pack for day

8.00am: Depart Lodge for the day. Field instruction

5.00pm: Arrive back, Dinner (provided), clean up

7.00pm – 8.30pm: Basic Navigation, First aid, hygiene in the mountains

Sunday 1 August/15 August

From 6.00am: Breakfast (self-catered), pack up & clean lodge.

8.00am Depart Lodge. Field instruction

Follow up day climb

A follow up day climb will be scheduled and is considered part of the course. A suitable date will be discussed during the course

Course Fees

The course fees include accommodation for two nights, two evening meals, provision of equipment if required (ice axe, crampons, helmet, avalanche kit and instruction. You will need to fund your own travel (car-pooling encouraged). The course fees are **\$265.00**. Payment in full on acceptance will secure you a place on the course.

Refunds will be on a case-by-case basis depending on how late you withdraw and our ability to find a replacement.

Food

Two evening meals are provided along with milk for breakfasts plus tea, coffee etc. Most dietary requirements can be catered for (please note on your registration form)

Accommodation:

At the Arthurs Pass lodge. Bunkroom accommodation, showers, and a full kitchen.

Gear list:

CLOTHING and GEAR REQUIRED:

Warm waterproof stiff tramping boot (minimum ½ shank), or mountaineering boot

Full length gaiters.

Crampons with anti balling plate (can be provided provided by the Canterbury Westland Section if required).

Walking ice axe, non technical, minimum 55 cm (can be provided by the Canterbury Westland Section if required).

Helmet (can be provided the Canterbury Westland Section if required).

Waterproof jacket and over trousers or ski jacket and pants.

Down or fleece jacket.

Soft shell or wind stopper jacket.

3 x pairs of warm thermal socks.

Lightweight fleece or polypropylene top and leggings.

2 x pair of gloves (1 x waterproof ski type and 1 x thermal such as polypropylene or ice ninja).

Warm hat or balaclava.

Sun hat.

Sun glasses or ski goggles.

Sun block.

Personal medication and first aid kit.

Energy food snacks.

Water (minimum 1.5 litre. NOT a bladder and tube system because these can freeze).

Pack large enough to fit everything in, with ice axe and gear loops, liner and bags to keep everything dry.

PROVIDED as part of the course:

Avalanche kit – 3 antenna transceiver, metal shovel, probe.

OPTIONAL:

Thermos for hot drink.

Head Torch

Small notebook and pen

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 a 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.

[**Click here to register**](#)