



Wild Blue Yonder Raft Guide Certification Program

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

Our program teaches all the skills necessary to become a class 2/3 raft guide. We train and test candidates in 35 industry-standard raft guide competencies (see next page). The program is 10-14 days and includes at least 10 trips on a class 2/3 river, 2 trips on a class 4 river, and 2 days on a class 3/4 river. There are also dryland days covering theory. Training is led by Johannes Zwart, a BC and Alberta Raft Guide Examiner (BCROA & PROAOA)

WILL I GET A JOB AFTER?

Once certified, you are usually offered a job. Then you need to complete another week of training in policies and procedures, additional river navigation and rescue scenarios. Full-time guides are scheduled for up to 40 hours a week, although not all this work is guiding. Employment is until at least the end of August.

WHAT CERTIFICATION IS PROVIDED?

Once you have successfully demonstrated all the competencies, you will receive a Raft Guide certificate with Oar Endorsement from BCROA or PROAOA. The oar endorsement level is class 2 or 3+, dependent on your river navigation skills. The certificates are valid for 5 years and are recognized across Canada and internationally.

ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES?

Standard First Aid with CPR: Standard is required, but Wilderness First Aid is preferred for guides.

Swiftwater Rescue Certification: This is required, and we run a course each year as part of training, and can provide Swiftwater Rescue Technician, Level 2 (Royal Life-Saving Society).

WHAT DOES THE CERTIFICATION COST?

\$500 CAD. Currently, we are offering free certification to applicants who successfully complete the training, and complete a full season of employment with us.

WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL YOU NEED?

You can rent all required equipment from us for \$100, or buy your own. Staff can access wholesale pricing from NRS. Any equipment must be paid for when your order is placed. **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Full-length wetsuit, booties, paddle-top, Class V Rescue PFD, rescue knife, Fox 40 whistle and EU-rated white water helmet.

IS THERE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE?

A shared room may be available. Please inquire.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE TRAINING TAKE PLACE?

The Raft Guide Certification Program takes place at our Grande Cache base in Alberta, with further orientation for guides hired to work in our Revelstoke location. The course takes place on the Sulphur River, Smoky and the Kakwa Rivers each year at the end of May. Contact us for current dates.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Registration for the Raft Guide Certification opens on February 1 each year. Send us an email and include your resume, paddling and outdoor experience. Please email us any questions you may have: **no phone calls, please.** Email fun@wildblueyonder.ca

BASIC RAFT GUIDE COMPETENCIES

The following is a list of the basic competencies we will train and test applicants in for certification.

1. Know basic river morphology, characteristics, features, hazards and terms.
2. Know the importance of the International River Rating Scale.
3. Evaluate water levels and demonstrate basic river reading skills.
4. Demonstrate when scouting is required.
5. Know the significance of raft order.
6. Identify specific features, obstacles and hazards on specific river sections.
7. Safely and consistently navigate the class of water certified for, using oar propulsion.
8. Effectively avoid river obstacles and hazards on the class of water certified for.
9. Complete at least 5 safe eddy exits and entries.
10. Consistently beach the raft, secure to shore and unload guests.
11. Deliver appropriate and consistent commands to guests in regards to navigation.
12. Deliver appropriate and consistent commands to guests in regards to games and guest swims.
13. Know industry regulations and safety standards.
14. Know industry standards in regard to certification and record keeping.
15. Awareness of the safety and rescue gear a guide is required and recommended to carry.
16. Know the equipment a guest is required to wear, and how it should fit.
17. Deliver an industry-standard safety briefing and demonstration.
18. Demonstrate correct paddling and incident response to guests.
19. Inflate, rig, load and secure gear into a raft for a commercial trip.
20. Complete a basic riverside repair to a raft.
21. Show suitable care of rescue and safety equipment.
22. Know International river communications and direction, and how to describe your location.
23. Be able to assess common incidents.
24. Be able to use common rescue techniques.
25. Deliver appropriate and consistent commands to guests during incidents.
26. Be able to re-right a flipped raft, and recover guests, in a moving current.
27. Show an effective response if paddles are lost, or an oar is broken.
28. Retrieve a swimmer while piloting a raft using the CHASE method.
29. Retrieve a swimmer while piloting a raft using a throw bag.
30. Show appropriate use of first aid, safety and rescue equipment.
31. Participate in foot entrapment and swimmer stranded mid-stream incident scenarios.
32. Participate in swimmer separated from raft and swimmer caught in hydraulic scenarios.
33. Participate in incident scenarios requiring rope rescue systems.
34. Participate in safely lining a raft through, or portaging a raft around, a section of the river.
35. Participate in stuck or pinned raft scenarios.