

26 June 2012

Chris Hooper
Scouting NZ
PO Box 11348
Wellington 6142



OUTDOOR SAFETY

Mountain Safety House
19 Tory Street
PO Box 6027, Wellington

Tel 04 385 7162 Fax 04 385 7366
info@mountainsafety.org.nz

Re: Outdoor Leadership Training Programme

Dear Chris

Thank you for your interest in having a number of your leaders attend the pilot courses for the residential Community Outdoor Leader Development Programme. This has been a particularly rewarding initiative to be working with you, your organisation and the other interested parties to establish. We are now at the point where we can invite leaders to attend, an exciting next step.

This letter is to formally invite you and your leaders to participate in the pilot and provides a brief summary of the key information you need to know and what is required from you next. In addition, we have included some background information about the programme and the pilot courses as well as what the participating leaders, their organisations and communities will gain.

We believe this work will help shape community leader development in NZ into the future. Thank you in advance for willingly participating in the development and initial pilot of this work.

Key dates, details and requirements.

There are 50 participant places over the three pilot courses. We have allocated 5 participant leader places for your organisation. The pilot courses will be held:

1. 12-19 August at Blue Mountain Adventure Centre, Central North *island*, 16 places available.
2. 19-26 August at Aongatete Lodge, Waikato, 8 places available.
3. 7-14 September at Environmental Education centre, Canterbury, 16 places available.

We need written confirmation by the 2nd July that you will take up your 5 allocated places. For logistical purposes, we ask that you indicate your leaders preferred (and second choice) venue and dates. Because of the tight time frame it will be first in, first allocated for the specific locations.



We will send the enrolment packs in early July that will contain further details, a gear list and course work requirements. We need your selected participant leaders to complete all the paperwork. The completed enrolment pack is due by the 16th July.

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What you will need to do now

You now need to confirm your acceptance of your 5 places and select your participant leaders (ensuring they meet all the pilot candidate selection criteria and prerequisite requirements). We suggest having a short waiting list in case your initial leader participants drop out or we find other organisations can't fill their allocation and we are able to offer you additional places.

Tel 04 385 7162 Fax 04 385 7366
mountainsafety.org.nz

If you have any questions, or require further clarification, please contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Brodie'.

Richard Brodie

NZ Mountain Safety Council Business Manager

04 385 7162 x 221

richard.brodie@mountainsafety.org.nz

Following is the list of sponsors, without whom this pilot wouldn't be taking place

- Lion Foundation
- Might River Power
- Ministry of Youth Development



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Background

Community outdoor leaders development has been identified as one of the primary mechanisms for achieving the outcome of 'more people participating safely in land based outdoor activity'. As leaders develop their knowledge, skills and desire to act safely into new outdoors, they will be better able to in-turn lead others to achieve the same.

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There are a number of established opportunities for community leader development to occur within organisations and communities. These can range from being reasonably formalised e.g. MSC leader development and public education, through organisations internal leader development programmes e.g. Scouting NZ, Girl Guiding etc, and adhoc mentoring e.g. experienced outdoor people taking the less experienced into the outdoors teaching them what they know.

While each of these mechanisms meet particular requirements and need, increasingly there is an expectation of quality, consistent, accessible leader development that is delivered in a co-ordinated, consistent way to appropriate currently accepted (and expected) outdoor safety standards.

The proposed community outdoor leader development programme is designed to provide community volunteer outdoor leaders with the core, building block for the training, skills, knowledge, appropriate to leaders and their organisations and community's needs.

However, before a full rollout is considered, an initial pilot consisting of three courses will be delivered between August and October 2012.

The pilot is residential and will be delivered over a seven day period. It is anticipated that the programme will be modular and able to be delivered in a community environment over a longer period of time. Part of the evaluation of the pilot will look at the appropriateness (or not) of the actual and future delivery model e.g. residential, over a number of weekends or week days.

Qualifications Achieved

Participant leaders, on completion, will be assessed against and eligible to receive the National Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (Leadership) with Bush-Walking strand. This qualification includes their being able to:

- Assess and manage an emergency situation during an outdoor activity
- Demonstrate knowledge of leadership for outdoor recreation
- Apply concepts of basic risk management



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- Lead an outdoor recreation activity for a group
- Gather and apply weather information
- Demonstrate bush-walking knowledge and skills and
- Lead a bush-walking experience for a group

This qualification will provide participants with a nationally recognised qualification giving them both skills and something to be included on their CV.

This qualification is also the base and core requirement for leading others (safely) in the outdoors and it is from this that participant leaders can be add additional leader 'strands' such as ; abseil, kayak, mountain bike, rock climbing and sea kayaking.

We will need participant leader NZQA and NSI numbers when they enrol, or a copy of their application to NZQA. Without these, we will be unable to enrol them as a candidate for the National Outdoor Leader qualification.

It is anticipated that in the future an overnight component will be added to the qualification. We are working with our primary Industry Training Organisation to establish this and add it to the programme. Unfortunately this is not currently available for the pilot courses. However participants will be able to add this additional component later as long as they have met the prerequisites included within this qualification.

Participant Leaders and organisations

50 participating leaders will be involved in the pilot courses. Organisations that have confirmed they will be seeking placements include; Girl Guiding, Scouts NZ, Duke of Edinburgh, MSC Trainee Leaders, Boys and Girls Brigade, Christian Camps, Iwi, Ministry of Youth Development.

We look to this diversity of participants and community as being important in participant leaders mixing with others from a number of organisations and individually (and collectively) developing the right skills and attitudes to undertake their leadership roles in the future.

We anticipate that each of the leaders will in-turn mentor and positively influence 5-10 colleagues through their internal leader development processes as well as actively lead others into the outdoors once they return to their respective organisation and communities. As such the multiplier effect from each participant leader, each of the pilots and the programme as a whole, is quite significant.



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Costs and sponsorship

While the cost for participant leaders to attend the residential pilot is \$1,400 - \$1,500 per participant, we have secured full sponsorship for all the participating leaders on the three pilot courses. This means for the pilot courses, there will be no charge to the participant leaders (or their organisations or communities) for instruction, food and accommodation.

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However, travel to and from the course is the responsibility of the participant leader or their organisation, community or sponsor.

Pilot candidate selection

A number of participating organisations have asked for some guidance of who they should select.

Ideally when selecting your candidates for the programme we suggest you look for people who will:

- Be one of your future leaders who is at least 18 years of age and will proactively and consciously provide ongoing leadership within your organisation or community
- Be sufficiently enthusiastic and physically fit to participate fully in the course and meet the outdoor activities and participation requirements

Evaluation

As part of the pilot programme we will be working closely with participant leaders, their organisations and communities (and our funders) to ensure we meet everyone's expectations. The pilot will be evaluated to assess actual delivery against what was intended and will include an evaluation of the course process, content, delivery and resources.

We will evaluate all aspects of the course over the 7 day delivery days; we also intend to track the participant leaders as they return to their organisations and communities. This is to see the impact and difference their leader development has had in their own leadership delivery as well as to those people they will actually be leading, their organisations and their communities.

To achieve this, we will seek feedback 6 and 12 months after the pilot.

In being part of this pilot, you (and your participant leaders) agree to participate in the evaluation processes. Presenting the evaluation results to each participating leader, their respective organisation and communities and to all the participating organisations and communities as a whole will add further value.