



## ACA Lead Pro Guide Skills Checklist

**OBJECTIVE:** *To become competent and thorough with pre-trip preparation, confident with advanced technical challenges, effectively model / teach / coach / manage clients with continued expansion of personal safety awareness, plus the development of client guiding and assessment techniques.*

**NOTE:** *Skills Checklists are cumulative in nature. Students must know all the skills from the 'Core', 'Aspirant', 'CL1', 'CL2', and 'Asst. Guide' Checklists in addition to the skills listed here.*

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSESSOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:     PASS     CONDITIONAL PASS     NO PASS

	DATE	SCORE
<b>Pre-Trip Preparations</b>		
Effectively assess and/or perform each of the following items:		
a) Participants potential physical & mental capabilities (Group Dynamics).		
b) Participants current condition (sleep? eat?).		
c) Current Weather / Environmental Conditions / Forecast.		
d) Current Canyon Access / Traveling Conditions.		
e) Condition of Emergency Communication Device(s).		
f) Guide Gear Check(s) (Ropes, Technical Gear, First Aid).		
<b>Pre-Trip Safety Briefing</b>		
Provide a comprehensive pre-canyon group safety briefing that includes:		
a) Guide Introduction.		
b) Head-to-Toe medical.		
c) Trip Description (Describe Basic Canyoneering & Environment).		
d) Instruct participants in use of emergency communication devices (PLB, Radio, Local SAR; Emergency Contacts).		
<b>In Canyon Safety</b>		
Communicate group start location (via personal locator beacon).		
Perform guest gear-up (Harness, Helmet, Clothing).		
Know and explain Canyon Beta for applicable canyon (approach, canyon, & exit).		
Describe "In Case of Emergency" strategy.		

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Teach, model, and effectively coach proper hand grips (pushing/pulling) & foot placement.		
Provide instruction and teach participants to downclimb.		
Give Rope / Webbing / Anchor & Rigging Introduction.		
Provide instruction and teach participants basic rappelling.		
Demonstrate function of and purpose of belaying.		
Perform timely in canyon safety / technical instruction for task at hand.		
Perform consistent and timely 'Buddy Checks'.		
Demonstrate effective group & gear sequencing of (a) rappels (b) downclimbs (c) water obstacles (d) constricted spaces.		
Demonstrate personal safety while 'working' in canyon.		
<b>In-Canyon Group Basic &amp; Dynamic Needs</b>		
Effectively manage and/or mitigate the following:		
a) Children / Parent relationships.		
b) A participant that is (a) Angry (b) Bossy (c) Bored.		
c) Lowering group 'emotion'.		
d) Group breaks & re-starts (i.e. lunchtime; bathroom, rest).		
e) Group 'transitions'.		
f) Refocus a tired group.		
g) Increase / decrease group rate of progress.		
<b>Technical Knowledge &amp; Abilities</b>		
Successfully perform <b>ALL ITEMS</b> from the ACA Asst. Guide, Canyon Leader 2, Canyon Leader 1, Aspirant, & Core Skills Checklists.		
<b>Rescue / Assistance</b>		
Identify most efficient canyon egress point(s).		
Demonstrate throwing and use of tag lines to a distressed swimmer.		
Free an entangled / attached rappeler in water.		
Confidently rescue a struggling/drowning participant.		
Rescue person / recover gear stuck in mud.		
Manage encountering another group needing help.		

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<b>Problem Solving Scenarios</b>		
Scenario 1: Talking down a panicked rappeler.		
Scenario 2: Motivating a tired participant.		
Scenario 3: Managing group reluctance.		
Scenario 4: Freeing jammed rappel device.		
Scenario 5: Recognize and treat symptoms for (a) hyperthermia (b) hypothermia.		
Scenario 6: Manage claustrophobic guest.		
Scenario 7: Evacuate an injured participant from canyon.		

### Recommendations After Training

- Practice technical skills in low-risk conditions, such as on clean and low angle “slab” type environments or on vertical terrain with an effective Top or Bottom (Fireman’s) Belay.
- Students should descend intermediate to advanced canyons with competent mentors, taking on progressively more anchor, rigging and problem-solving responsibilities.