



ACA Lead Pro Guide Skills Checklist

OBJECTIVE: *To become competent and thorough with pre-trip preparation, confident with basic technical challenges, effectively 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', 'Asst. CL', 'CL', 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
Pre-Trip Preparations		
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).		
Pre-Trip Safety Briefing		
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).		
In Canyon Safety		
Communicate Group Start Location (via personal locating 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.		
In-Canyon Group Basic & Dynamic Needs		
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.		
Technical Knowledge & Abilities		
Successfully perform ALL ITEMS from the ACA Asst. Guide, Canyon Leader, Asst. Canyon Leader, Aspirant, & Core Skills Checklists.		
Rescue / Assistance		
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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Problem Solving Scenarios		
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.