# Bushwalk Guide

# Assessment Guidelines

## Qualification Definition:

The holder of this qualification has demonstrated the skills, knowledge and understanding to guide groups on overnight bushwalking activities on trails up to and including Grade 4 tracks (see https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/bushwalking) (Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.)

The holder of this award is not endorsed to lead groups if any of the following apply:

- Scrambling where there is a risk of rockfall or fall from height that may result in serious injury;
- Foul weather including gale force winds or greater, heavy rainfall or predicted lightning;
- Tracks that are flooded due to high rainfall or tide;
- Remote locations;
- Without a nearby clearly identified escape route;
- Off-trail.

Guides intending to lead in the above situations are recommended to have higher level planning and incident response measures and/or accreditation such as the Bushwalk Guide – Remote Areas.

## Assessment context:

The assessment commences prior to the walk with pre-assessment checks of a log book of suitable training and experience, a current 'Provide First Aid' certificate or above, a completed trip plan and evidence of completion of the Bushwalk Guide Quiz.

The practical assessment takes place over three days in a suitable location. The assessment commences with checks of planning and preparation for the walk including equipment, environment and people preparation and knowledge of safety management practices. Once checked, the walk will include use of verbal questions, tasks and scenarios in the assessment of navigation, group management, communication, leadership, risk management and safe practice and incident response to the level of Bushwalk Guide.

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Following the practical assessment the assessor(s) will recommend a result to the Walking SA Education Committee who will make the final decision and whether any follow-up is required.

## Pre-assessment checks

PBGF1 Logbook demonstrates a breadth of experience with a minimum 20 lightweight overnight camping days of which 14 days must be lightweight bushwalking. This experience must include the following:

- Variety of cohorts, e.g. adolescents, clubs, schools and peers.
- Variety of settings and environmental conditions including cold and wet, hot and dry conditions. Interstate or overseas experience recommended.
- 2 leadership walks under supervision of a qualified guide/leader.
- 2 other walks as guide/leader.
- 2 x 3-day walks

PBG2 Current first aid.

PBG3 Trip planning package forwarded to education@walkingsa.org.au.

PBG4 Payment of fees.

PBG5 Quiz result including score.

## Trip Plan

BGF1 Plans an appropriate route for the group and terrain.

BGF2 Prepares trip intentions and emergency contact plan.

BGF1 Prepares hazard identification, risk assessment, management and incident response plan including escape routes and communication plan.

BGF7 BGF14 Provides information to participants that outlines where, when, who, what, why, risks and management strategies.

BGF6 BGF19 Carries out research on the walk environment.

BGF6 Plans to comply with any land management guidelines.

BGF6 Investigates cultural guidelines for the walk area.

BGF6 BGF18 Plans for minimal impact and sustainable practices.

BGF5 BGF8 Checks and brings appropriate incident response equipment including first aid, shelter and communication equipment.

BGF12 BGF13 Checks and brings appropriate technological and non-technological equipment to guide navigation.

BGF5 BGF2 BGF7 BGF9 Plans to gather and records appropriate group medical data and emergency contact information either prior to the walk or if adults before commencement of the walk.

BGF9 Plans to gain informed consent and medical information from all involved in walk.

BGF1 BGF19 Checks weather forecast is appropriate for the planned walk.

## Bushwalking Guide Assessment in the Field

**Pre-trip briefing**

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BGF14 BGF2 BGF9 BGF17 Checks medical forms, group has appropriate attire, food, water and equipment before embarking on journey.

BGF17 BGF14 Conducts thorough pre-trip briefing before walk

BGF7 Checks suitability of participant (psychological, physical, emotional)

**Equipment**

BGF4 BGF21 BGF23 Personal protective and other equipment appropriate for overnight camping.

BGF22 BGF24 Appropriate nutrition and hydration for the walk.

BGF4 BGF8 BGF21 Group first aid kit.

BGF21 BGF23 BGF5 Emergency Shelter.

BGF21 BGF10 Communication devices appropriate for the location

BGF21 BGF18 BGF14 Trowel and toileting kit.

BGF12 BGF13 BGF21 Navigation tools.

**Navigation**

BGF12 Uses appropriate techniques to determine position throughout walk.

BGF12 Demonstrates knowledge of land and map interpretation.

BGF12 Demonstrates map and compass skills.

BGF12 Completes a resection  and back bearing.

**Walking / group management**

BGF1 BGF6 BGF7 Selects appropriate site and appropriate route for the group and terrain (pre-trip).

BGF15 BGF16 Ability to set appropriate breaks, food and hydration stops.

BGF15 BGF16 Designates and rotates group tasks.

BGF15 BGF16 Demonstrates high level of supervision, observation, and communication. (refer to communication assessment)

BGF5 BGF7 BGF13 BGF8 BGF14 BGF21 BGF24  Ensures safe practice.

BGF18 Practices minimal impact walking.

**Overnight camping**

BGF23 Appropriate Site selection and tent placement.

BGF23 Designated cooking and toileting areas.

BGF15 Setting group tasks or activities and safe boundaries.

BGF24 BGF13 Supervising or instructing safe practice in cooking circle.

BGF23 Checking tents pitched adequately for weather conditions.

BGF24 BGF18 Assuring hygiene and minimal impact is adhered to.

BGF22 BGF24 Appropriate meal planning and management.

**Weather**

BGF1 BGF7 Describes predicted weather for the walk area.

BGF19 Monitors weather throughout walk and makes appropriate modifications if required.

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**Communication**

BGF14 BGF15 Establish and maintains an effective communication system within the group for the walk to maintain effective group management.
BGF1 BGF2 BGF7 BGF17 Provides overview of the walk including objectives, locations, times, terrain, weather, incident response planning.
BGF7 BGF14 BGF15 Provides guidelines for conduct throughout the walk – minimal impact, cultural sensitivity, other users and land manager guidelines.
BGF3 Provides an appropriate closure to the walk.

**Leadership**

BGF11 BGF16 Applies situational leadership modifying leadership style and plans according to the requirements of the situation such as the environment, participant issues and group issues.
BGF11 Demonstrates situational awareness throughout walk to ensure wellbeing of participants.

**Risk management and safe practice**

BGF14 Provides safety briefings at appropriate trigger points.
BGF14 BGF15 BGF16 Applies preventative strategies throughout the walk to minimise the risk of physical and psychological harm.
BGF1 BGF7 Identifies real or potential risks in advance.
BGF11 BGF16 Adapts to changing environments.
BGF3 Ensures all group members have transport at end of trip.

**Incident response**

BGF8 BGF10 BGF11 Responds appropriately to a mock or real incident including communication with emergency services, ensuring appropriate first aid and extended care is provided to the level of training.
BGF8 BGF15 Manages group throughout incident
BGF8 BGF11 Describes responses for alternative incidents such as group member lost, or group lost.
BGF8 BGF1 Able to create an emergency evacuation plan.
BGF8 BGF10 Note taking and completes an incident report.

## Quiz

The quiz will assess underpinning knowledge required for a Bushwalk Guide. The quiz is completed prior to the field assessment to allow clarification of this body of knowledge.

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