



REQUIREMENTS FOR ORGANIZED YOUTH GROUPS ENTERING NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is affected?

All custodial groups; this means any institutional group where at least one person is below the age of majority, and that person is not in the company of his/her parent. This includes but is not limited to organized groups from schools, scouts and girl guides, church, community youth groups.

What is age of majority?

Age of majority pertains to the province in which the national park is located (Alberta: 18 years / B.C.: 19 years).

Does group size matter?

Yes, maximum group size permitted is nine person(s) plus certified guide(s).

What is a certified mountain guide?

A certified guide is an alpine professional who had undertaken extensive training and rigorous testing in safe mountain leadership.

Which certification bodies are acceptable?

The Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (www.acmg.ca) and the International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations are internationally recognized as providing the highest guiding standards.

Where can I find a guide?

Most backcountry equipment retailers can provide contacts or brochures to local guiding businesses. Information on hiring a mountain or ski guide can be found on the web site of the ACMG: www.acmgguides.com

Do I need this permit for a day trip?

Yes, for either a day or overnight trip. Groups staying overnight in the backcountry still need a Wilderness Pass as well.

Does this apply all year?

This regulation is in effect from October 15 through May 31 annually.

How do I get a permit?

The designated Custodial Group Leader must submit a completed application for a custodial group permit to the park at least two weeks prior to the prospective trip start date.

Is there a fee for this permit?

No.

Do businesses operating in the mountain national parks need to get a custodial group permit?

Yes. Groups that fit the custodial group definition must obtain a permit to travel in backcountry avalanche terrain.

Can the guide also be the group leader?

Yes.

Where do I get a custodial group permit application form?

From mountain national park web sites or in person from the Parks Canada office in Calgary, Alberta (#1550, 635-8th Ave. S.W.) or at any mountain national park information centre or administration office.

Where do I pick up my permit once it's approved?

A public safety specialist will review your application. Approved permits will be sent to the contact address specified.

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