

Canyon Guides International (CGI) provides a path to an international professional canyon guide certification that is based on validating four things: documenting experience, testing knowledge, assessing technical skills, and verifying leadership skills.

This document is provided as an introduction to CGI's onboarding process for anyone interested in membership and in pursuing canyon guide certification.

*Canyoneering vs canyoning — the difference is merely geographical or cultural. You will see the term canyoneering used in this document, but the two terms are interchangeable.*

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## Step 1 — Become a Member

**Register and pay dues:** <https://canyonguidesinternational.org/membership>

- Paid Aspirant Membership is a prerequisite for individuals who wish to pursue canyon guide certification through CGI.
- Paid Professional Membership is a prerequisite for certification and is an ongoing condition for maintaining certification.

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## Step 2 — Complete Onboarding

**Check your onboarding progress:** <https://canyonguidesinternational.org/coaching>

Follow our New Member Onboarding process, along with guidance from your personal coach to complete all of the requirements for certification, including:

- Onboarding Interview
- Online Courses/Exams
- Hands-on Skills Assessment
- In-canyon Guiding Assessment
- Peer Reviews

## Membership and Payment of Dues

Joining CGI includes initiating an automated subscription for the payment of dues. Renewal is automatic upon expiration of the current membership term.

### Manual Renewal Processing Fee

If you prefer NOT to have your subscription renewed automatically, manual processing is available for an additional fee of \$30.00 (USD). This processing fee will be due and payable along with the payment of regular dues.

If for any reason your membership subscription does not renew automatically, you will be notified by email of the situation. You will have 10 days from the date of the email to make corrections in your subscription. If corrections are not made within 10 days, you will be charged the Manual Renewal Processing Fee along with your regular dues.

NOTE: The most common reason for failure of automatic renewal has been an expired credit card used for the subscription.

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### ASPIRANT MEMBERSHIP

Dues for Aspirant Members are currently \$65.00 (USD) for 6-month membership. Membership will renew automatically for one additional 6-month period if you require additional time to complete your requirements for certification. Upon completion of the second 6-month period, the membership will expire unless you upgrade to Professional Membership before the Aspirant Membership expires.

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### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Dues for Professional Members are currently \$95.00 (USD) per year. Paid Professional Membership is a prerequisite for CGI certification and an ongoing condition for maintaining certification.

Professional Membership includes a listing in our Member Directory and access to our professional development coaching program.

## Certification Overview

Professional canyon guide certification is available through Canyon Guides International for:

- Aspiring guides seeking training and assessment that leads to certification.
- Individuals who feel they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills and wish to consolidate their credentials for certification by challenging assessments.
- Individuals who already hold certification from another organization who are seeking recognition from Canyon Guides International.

Certification requires documented experience, references from other canyoneers who are familiar with your abilities, completion of an online exam, hands-on technical skills evaluation(s) and in-canyon guiding assessment(s). Once you have completed all of the requirements and received certification you can take great pride in your accomplishment and in knowing your certification meets and exceeds international standards for professional canyon guides.

- There is no certification prerequisite for pursuing Level 1 or Level 2 certification with CGI. You must, however, already hold Level 2 certification from CGI or another recognized organization prior to pursuing Level 3 or Level 4 certification.
- Guides who hold current certification from another recognized organization, equivalent to CGI Level 1, 2 or 3 may receive CGI certification at Level 1 or Level 2 without hands-on technical skills assessment or in-canyon guiding assessment. Some requirements for CGI certification at Level 3 may be waived, determined on a case-by-case basis after review of your current certification level.
- Recognized organizations whose training and evaluations have been predetermined to meet CGI standards include, but are not limited to the following: ACA, ACE, AFC, AIC, CIC, ICA, NCB, ICOPro, ICAN, NZOIA, SOA and UKCG.
- If you hold a current certification from any other organization, please contact CGI. We will be happy to evaluate the program to consider if it meets our equivalency standards.
- If you are uncertain how your current level of certification from any organization equates to CGI certification levels, contact us at CGI.

## CGI Certification Levels

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### Level 1 - Aspirant Canyon Guide

This certification level is ideal for those seeking an entry-level certification as a foundation for gaining additional guiding experience working as an apprentice or assistant guide before pursuing higher levels of certification.

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE** — Works only under the direct supervision of a lead guide (Level 2 or higher) who is working well within his/her own Scope of Practice.

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### Level 2 - Fixed Site / Single Pitch Canyon Guide

Fixed Site / Single Pitch Canyon Guide is a certification available to individuals who guide no more than three canyons that all have similar characteristics, hydrology and emergency response requirements; with simple, straight-forward anchors and rigging (single-point natural anchors, bolted anchors, basic deadman anchors).

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE** — Only leads canyons that have been previously descended by the guide; with well-established logistics, anchors, rigging, and emergency response procedures. Longest rappel in canyon is less than half of one rope length; maximum rappel length 30 meters. With limited verified rescue skills, the guide rigs releasable contingency systems for rappels. Guide provides top rope belays for clients unless specific situation makes it unfeasible.

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### Level 3 — Pro Canyon Guide

CGI certified Pro Canyon Guides are individuals who have attained and demonstrated a high level of technical competence through rigorous assessment that meets and exceeds international standards. CGI certification provides a decisive tool for choosing the right guide/instructor to help clients and students achieve their canyoneering objectives.

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### Level 4 - Master Canyon Guide

CGI certified Master Canyon Guides are individuals who progressed from Pro Canyon Guide to attain a level of technical proficiency that represents the pinnacle of guiding excellence.

## CGI Logos and Graphics

**NOTE: Membership in Canyon Guides International (CGI) does not constitute permission to use any CGI logo or graphic in any form or for any purpose.**

**Registering as either an Aspirant Member or Professional Member of CGI does not suggest any form of certification by CGI.**

**Use of CGI logos and graphics is limited to:**

- CGI Certified Canyon Guides — Levels 2, 3 and 4
- CGI Certified Instructors/Evaluators
- CGI Accredited Guide Services
- CGI Accredited Training Centers

### LOGO/BRAND USE POLICY

*Applicable to all Logos and Graphics of Canyon Guides International (CGI)*

- For programs that employ a number of CGI certified and non-certified individuals, logos may only be used next to the individual's bio who holds the certification. Text must state who holds the certification. The logos may not be used to imply that all employees, owners or partners in a business are certified.
- Individuals must maintain current certification (which requires current paid membership) with CGI to use the logos. Individuals who have allowed their certification to lapse may not use the logos or advertise himself or herself as CGI certified until their certification is current.
- Participation in or successful completion of any course or curriculum conducted by a CGI certified guide or instructor does not warrant the use of any of the logos. If you wish to state that you have completed a CGI training course, you may do so in text only if you clearly state that you are not certified, you are still in training and have yet to complete or pass the entire certification process.

### Failure to Adhere to Logo/Brand Use Policy

Individuals or programs found to be in violation of the CGI Logo/Brand Use Policy will be given 30 days to rectify and/or remove any unauthorized use of the logos, graphics or misleading text from any and all advertising. CGI will notify the individual or program via email or mail stating what must be done to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the CGI Logo/Brand Use Policy and directives from CGI within 30 days of receiving notification will result in the individual or company losing its CGI certification or accreditation for 12 months.