

WTMC

Snowcraft 2017



WHAT IS SNOWCRAFT ?

Snowcraft is an instruction course run by experienced WTMC volunteers. The course aim is to give you a thorough introduction to the basic techniques required for travelling safely and efficiently in an alpine environment. It will be ideal for people with some tramping experience, a solid fitness base and a desire to learn more about snow travel.

WHAT DOES IT COVER ?

The course covers the fundamental techniques required for travelling safely and efficiently on snow. Trip planning, (including risk management and decision making), mountain navigation, mountain weather, food, clothing and equipment, alpine hazards (including avalanches) and emergency shelters will be covered.

WHO TEACHES THE COURSE ?

Experienced WTMC members instruct on the course. The instructors are volunteers rather than professional instructors with formal teaching qualifications. While instructors will make every effort to look out for your health and safety this is primarily your responsibility. You cannot use our Snowcraft course as credits for any NCEA or other educational programme. If you want to do a professionally run course contact a mountain guiding company such as Adventure Consultants or Alpine Guides.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH SNOWCRAFT SKILLS ?

Snowcraft will give you the basic skills and systems required for travelling safely in snow, and a good appreciation for what you don't know. You will know where your strengths and weaknesses lie and what is required to build and run an effective team in a potentially hostile environment. You will understand that on any given day the weather, snow conditions and the experience and skills of your party plus the quality of your decision making and risk management determine what your team can achieve. You will know where to go for information, mentoring and advice. You will have met some like-minded people who you can go on trips with.

However your alpine journey is just beginning. To consolidate your learning and grow as a mountaineer you need to keep visiting the mountains. We recommend that you go on as many WTMC trips graded ALP 1 as you can and consider organising your own trips with the assistance of more experienced club members.

Examples of places you can go include winter tops tramping in the Tararuas, Ruahines or Kawekas, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, the peaks in Tongariro National Park, and the alpine passes in Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Park. ALP 1 climbing trips could include certain routes on Tapae-o-uneku in the Inland Kaikouras or Mt Angelus or Travers in Nelson Lakes National Park.

If you find that you enjoy alpine trips then the next step may be to do an alpine instruction course and/or a rock climbing course where you learn how to use ropes and other equipment to do snow and ice climbing along with rock climbing thereby opening up access to a whole new range of cool alpine (and/or rock) trips.

HOW MUCH DOES THE COURSE COST ?

The course is open to WTMC members only, and is run on a cost-recovery basis with volunteer instructors.

The course cost for 2017 is \$ 375.00.

The course costs cover transport, food and accommodation for 2 weekends up at Ruapehu, as well as all tuition and a Snowcraft instruction manual for each student to keep.

As well as the course fee you will need to pay a small amount for gear hire if you do not have your own ice axe, crampons or helmet. You should have the other gear if you already tramp.

WHAT ARE THE COURSE DATES AND VENUES?

The course dates are :

- : ***Introductions; theory session on gear; lecture on interpreting weather in the field***
Date : Wednesday 21st June, 6:00 to 8:30 pm
Venue : TBC
- : ***Crampon fitting and other gear hire***
Date : Wednesday 28th June, 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Venue : WTMC club rooms
- : ***Avalanche Awareness Talk by NZAC Wellington Section***
Date : Wednesday 5th July, 6:00 to 8:00 pm (date and times still to be confirmed)
Venue : TBC
- : ***Field Trip on Ruapehu – travelling in an alpine environment***
Date : Friday 7th to Sunday 9th July (meet Friday 5:00 pm at Wellington Railway Station)
Venue : WTMC Lodge, Iwikau Village, Ruapehu
- : ***Weekend at WTMC Lodge on Ruapehu – planning and executing an alpine trip***
Date : Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July (meet Friday 5:00pm at Wellington Railway Station)
Venue : WTMC Lodge, Iwikau Village, Ruapehu
- : ***De-brief and Return Gear***
Date : Wednesday 26th July
Venue : WTMC club rooms & Hop Garden.

YOU HAVE TO ATTEND EVERY SESSION TO COMPLETE THE COURSE

WILL I NEED ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT ?

Most of the required equipment, particularly clothing, you will already own if you are a trumper. Please refer to the WTMC gear list for guidance. <http://www.wtmc.org.nz/what-to-take-on-a-trip>

It is important to have solid, robust tramping boots with a stiff shank to keep your feet warm in the snow and to allow for crampons to be attached to your boots. Trainers and lightweight hiking shoes are unacceptable. A waterproof raincoat, over-trousers, gloves, sunglasses (preferably goggles) and lots of warm clothes are essential.

The club has ice axes, crampons and helmets available for hire at a small cost. Gear will be covered during the first session on the course.

I WANT TO ENROL FOR THE COURSE; WHAT DO I DO ?

Fill out an application form and pay the course fee into the WTMC bank account. Make sure you're a member of the WTMC as well. You will receive an email confirming your place on the course.

Application forms can be downloaded from the club website <http://www.wtmc.org.nz/snowcraft> or email snowcraft@wtmc.org.nz or hdwfisher@gmail.com.

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS; WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ?

Contact Henry Fisher using the above email address.