

THE FGASA APPRENTICE TO LEAD TRAILS GUIDE CERTIFICATE



Do you already have the FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2 OR NQF4) certificate?

No

You will need to first obtain at least Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2)

Yes

You will need to be signed off as an entrant into the apprentice trails guide process.

No

You will **not be permitted** to undergo the FGASA Trails Guide programme without the required hours and encounters.

Yes

You will need to log specific hours and encounters in the dangerous game logbook.

Yes

1. Hours:

Minimum 50 hours on trail as observer led by a FGASA Professional Trails Guide, or SKS (DG) Guide. This can be in the workplace during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed Apprentice Trails Guide course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.

Encounters:

Minimum of 10 encounters from at least 3 of the animal categories as observer on a trail led by a FGASA Professional Trails Guide, or SKS (DG) Guide. This can be in the workplace during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed Apprentice Trails Guide course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.

Yes

You need to be **declared competent** (pass) the FGASA Trails Guide theory examination (75%).

You need to complete the FGASA Trails Guide **Workbook**.

You need to obtain the **Advanced Rifle Handling** certificate, including the required proficiencies. **US117705; US119651; US123519**

You will need to undergo a 10-hour one-on-one mentored assessment with a recognised FGASA Trails Guide Mentor in order to be eligible for the Apprentice Trails Guide programme.

Yes

You are eligible to be signed off by the mentor to enter the Apprentice Trails Guide programme.

Yes

2. 100 mentored guiding Hours:

Apprentice Trails Guide logs a minimum of:

- 50 hours on trail as 2nd Rifle led by the Mentor (log min 20 encounters)
- 50 hours as 1st Rifle with the mentor as 2nd Rifle (log min 20 encounters)

The mentor (approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide) functions as back-up and is the responsible guide in charge of the trail. This can be in the workplace during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur. The Apprentice Trails Guide can accumulate some or all these hours while acting as 2nd and 1st rifle on trails where other candidates (who are not yet in the apprentice programme) are accumulating their observer hours. Logging of 1st and 2nd rifle hours is interchangeable (in other words you do not have to log all 50 2nd rifle hours first and then all 50 1st rifle hours next).

Encounters:

Minimum of 40 encounters with at least one encounter from each of the animal categories during the minimum of 100 hours as 2nd Rifle or 1st Rifle on trails.

↓ Yes

3. Workplace Hours:

As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 50 hours on trail as 1st Rifle with an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide as 2nd Rifle. The 2nd Rifle functions as back-up and is the responsible guide in charge of the trail. This must be in the workplace during guiding based activities with regular walking guests to the lodge/reserve on the walk/trail and may not be in a training context.

The workplace can be:

The lodge or reserve where the guide is working

At any other operation offering walks where the guide is a freelance or volunteer, as long as it is not a training context or situation with students/other learners as guests

Encounters:

Log a minimum of 10 encounters from at least three of the animal categories as 1st Rifle on trails with an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide as 2nd Rifle. The 2nd Rifle functions as back-up and is the responsible guide in charge of the trail. This must be in the workplace during guiding based activities with regular walking guests to the lodge/reserve on the walk/trail and may not be in a training context.

↓ Yes

Finally complete a FGASA VPDA (View Potentially Dangerous Animals) Practical Assessment. This is conducted by an approved assessor and is a multi-day walk spanning over a minimum of two full days (two morning and two afternoon walks) and a minimum of 10 hours on foot and must include at least two encounters with at least two different dangerous game categories. At least four categories of free-roaming dangerous game must be present in the area where the assessment takes place and the candidate must be assessed in the roles of both 1st and 2nd rifle with walking guests.

↓ Yes

The Apprentice Trails Guide now holds a **VPDA** qualification (CATHSSETA recognised).

Note:

If the Apprentice Trails Guide is at Nature Guide NQF2 level, then the certificate will state Apprentice Trails Guide (NQF2).

*If the Apprentice Trails Guide already holds a full **FGASA NQF4 Field Guide Certificate** and **Tracker 1 Certificate**, then the Apprentice Trails Guide becomes a **FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4)**.*



Apprentice Trails Guide (NQF2)

- *Apprentice Trails Guide programme completed*
- *Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2)*
- *ARH (incl PFTCs)*
- *First Aid Certificate*

Trails Guide (NQF4)

- *Apprentice Trails Guide programme completed*
- *FGASA Field Guide (NQF4)*
- *ARH (incl PFTCs)*
- *Tracker Level 1*
- *First Aid Certificate*

You can now continue logging active guiding experience in the FGASA Dangerous Game Logbook working towards obtaining the FGASA Professional Trails Guide.

You will need to submit all required further documentation to the FGASA offices for correct registration of your new qualification with CATHSSETA.

A valid first aid certificate is a requirement for all FGASA qualifications.