



Certified Therapeutic Adventure Specialist (CTAS)

Application Overview

The application can be saved and returned to. This allows applicants the time to gather the information requested so documents can be uploaded to the application form.

Documents requested include: Verification of degree(s) (or documentation of equivalent experience), documents that verify Adventure Therapy training, First Aid/CPR certifications, and form filed out by supervisor to verify direct therapeutic adventure experience (this is downloaded from the application).

This chart summarizes the criteria that applicants must satisfy to earn the Certified Therapeutic Adventure Specialist (CTAS) credential. The criteria are designed to ensure that candidates possess a well-rounded education, and training in Adventure Therapy.

Application Criteria	CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Educational Degrees:	Associate's Degree with a specialization in Adventure Therapy <i>or</i> Bachelor's degree or higher degree in Outdoor/Adventure Recreation, Education, Leadership, Therapeutic recreation, or specific related behavioral health/social services degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Or Equivalent general field experience working in a mental health/wellness capacity at a reputable program. (See experience requirements below)
Behavioral Health/Wellness Facilitation Experience:	For all applicants: 1,000 hours and a minimum of 6-months working with mental health/wellness populations. Must be 21 years of old at time of application Additionally for Applicants Through Education Equivalency: provide adequate documented proof of training in risk management, cultural competency/DEI, Mental Health First Aid, therapeutic facilitation, and conflict de-escalation, or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide adequate documented proof of all experience hours gained while working in a professional capacity at an AEE OBH Accredited Program.
Therapeutic Adventure Specific Training:	At least 75 hours of therapeutic adventure specific instruction covering all components of the Core Elements of Therapeutic Adventure Training. This instruction should be provided by institutions of higher education (documented with the course syllabus) or from other professional development or work-based training. If training was gained in a college course, each semester credit is equivalent to 15 hours of instruction. If these trainings offer CEUs, a certificate of completion and course content can serve as evidence of training. If not, a program packet and curriculum detailing the information reviewed will suffice as evidence.

Supervised Therapeutic Adventure Experience:	<p>At least 300 hours of supervised therapeutic adventure specific experience plus 50 hours of concurrent therapeutic adventure specific supervision. For applicants completing these hours using days in the field, 300 hours of experience can be accumulated no faster than 182 full days in the field, on each trip, or each expedition. For concurrent therapeutic adventure specific supervision, this can be accumulated usually no more than 1 hour per day. Occasionally an applicant might have group supervision on the same day as individual supervision.</p> <p>Supervisors must be from an AEE OBH Accredited Program or have at least 5-years' experience as a CTAS/CCAT or equivalent training (documented via resume/CV), or certified recreation therapists with two years' experience, fully licensed social workers, counselors, psychologists, or marriage and family therapists that can adequately vouch for the applicant's AT experience. At this time, AEE is not requiring that the supervisor need to hold the CTAS or CCAT credential. Supervision must be distributed throughout the total 350 hours.</p>
First Aid and CPR:	<p>Certified at the appropriate level of first aid (or higher-level of training) and CPR by nationally or internationally recognized organizations specializing in wilderness, or front country first-aid training. Level of First Aid certification should be consistent with the setting of practice (wilderness or front country).</p>
CTAS Applicant Acknowledgement and Agreement	<p>This acknowledgement and agreement must be read, understood and signed by Applicant, as a condition to Applicant's certification as an therapeutic adventure specialist by the Association for Experiential Education (AEE). Applicant acknowledges and agrees as follows:</p> <p>Therapeutic Adventure requires a variety of skills in order to facilitate adventure activities, including, but not limited to: games and initiatives and low ropes courses, and high-level challenge and adventure activities (including challenge courses at height, rock climbing, paddling, and other outdoor adventure pursuits). Regardless of the type of adventure activity, the primary facilitator of the activity should have training in the technical skills required to reasonably manage its risks, including the level of emergency medical training appropriate to the setting (front country or wilderness).</p> <p>A primary facilitator must meet one or more of the technical skill conditions described below to lead adventure activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certified / Licensed – Hold certifications or licenses appropriate to leading the adventure activity and received from professional training organizations that follow professional and commonly accepted practices for their discipline and are consistent with the laws and regulations for the jurisdiction in which activities are conducted; or ○ Professional Training – Have received appropriate adventure activity training from professional organizations that follow commonly accepted practices for their discipline. Examples include organizations accredited by the Association for Experiential Education, American Mountain Guides Association, Association of Challenge Course Technology, and Colleges and Universities; or ○ Organizational Oversight - Training received is part of a program that has commonly accepted risk management practices, staff training, and appropriate activity protocols in place. <p>I, Applicant, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agree to uphold the ethical and legal guidelines within the credentialing guide of this application, of my professional background, region, state, province, or country, and for any licenses or certifications I hold. ○ Agree to facilitate therapeutic adventure activities only to the degree with which I have been trained and assessed as competent. ○ Agree to ensure that competent instructors facilitate the technical aspects of activities I offer that I am not qualified to facilitate.

CTAS Applicant Acknowledgement and Agreement (continued)	<p>I represent that information, statements, and documents which accompany my application for certification or renewal are accurate, including with respect to my experience, education, training, and expertise. I am solely responsible for the accuracy of such information, statements, and documents and AEE is not responsible or liable for any information which is inaccurate or misleading.</p> <p>I attest that there are no restrictions or conditions on my ability to work with clients or students. To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding complaints regarding my services.</p> <p>I agree to immediately notify AEE if I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have any disciplinary action taken against me by an applicable licensing or other authority;• Am convicted of a crime related to my providing therapeutic or educational services or a crime that would adversely affect the interests, effectiveness, reputation, or image of AEE;• Voluntary relinquish any related certifications. <p>Failure to report any of the conditions described above may result in the denial or revocation of my AEE Certified Therapeutic Adventure Specialist (CTAS) credential.</p> <p>I have read and am familiar with the AEE Certification Credentialing Manual and acknowledge and agree to the requirements of CTAS certification set forth therein.</p> <p>I acknowledge and agree that certification as a CTAS by AEE is not intended to be, and is not a representation or promise by AEE of my knowledge or competency, in my profession or otherwise; and that such designation confirms only that information and documentation received (which is not independently verified by AEE) reflects that the education and training requirements of AEE have been satisfied.</p> <p>I also acknowledge that if my profession typically requires a license or other professional credential then,</p> <p>I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless AEE from and against any and all claims, losses, actions, costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees and insurance deductibles, incurred by AEE as a result of or arising out of a) my acts or omissions in my treatment of patients or students; b) any falsification, including by omission or inclusion, of information on my CTAS application or any supporting documents; d) my conduct or actions that are prejudicial to the purpose, interests, effectiveness, reputation, or image of therapeutic adventure and/or AEE; and e) any other action or omission relating to my CTAS credential or my performance there under.</p>
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Adventure Therapy Self-Assessment:	Applicants (and those who are submitting a renewal) need to submit a Therapeutic Adventure Self-Assessment (found in application).
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