

American Alpine Institute
Canyoning Washington: Skills and Descents

Program Objective

The primary objective of this program is to descend two or more canyons over the course of a two-day program.

A secondary objective will be for participants to learn how to set-up the technical systems commonly used in swiftwater canyon environments.

When you sign up for this program, you will be assigned to a location. Prior to the first day, be sure to check with an AAI administrator to confirm that the waterflows are proper for the area. If waterflows are not proper, there may be a last minute change to a new location.

Travel to the region the day before your program begins. Following are a list of meeting places based on the regions where we operate this program:

Campground:

Olympic Program – [Brown Creek Campground](#) (NF-2340, Hoodsport, WA 98548)

Randle Program - [La Wis Wis Campground](#) (Hwy 12, Randle, WA 98377)

Snoqualmie Program - [Middle Fork Campground](#) (NF-5600, North Bend, WA 98045)

Day 1: (Canyon Experience)

On the first day, the team will meet at a designated location at 7am for a canyon gear review and/or gear issue. Once all students are properly outfitted we will drive to a nearby canyon and make our first run.

Skills to be Covered: Selection, care, and use of canyoning equipment. How to move in a canyon and basic canyon rappelling. Team communications and trip execution.

Student-to-Guide Ratio: 3:1

Lodging: Frontcountry Campground or Hotel

Day 2: (Canyon Experience)

This day will be a continuation of the first day to gain proficiency of skills in a canyon environment. Depending on location and length of the canyon, it may be possible to do two shorter canyons on the same day.

Skills to be Covered: Primary and backup rappelling techniques on single and double ropes. Movement on and rigging of traverse lines. Single rope Static and Releasable anchor systems. Anchor building and management (natural and bolted).

Student-to-Guide Ratio: 3:1

Lodging: Frontcountry Campground or Hotel