



Level 1 Facilitator Certification

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As the challenge course industry continues to develop and change the demands placed on facilitators has increased. Today's challenge course facilitator needs to be prepared to handle a variety of situations in a wide range of settings. Facilitators must possess the technical knowledge to facilitate programs using high and low challenge course elements. In addition, they are expected to have the soft skills necessary to understand the needs of the group as well as the individuals that make up that group.

The Level 1 Certification, provided by Synergo, is designed to provide an entry level facilitator the skills needed to begin work on a challenge course. These certifications align with the ACCT Practitioner Certification Standards. Synergo has been reviewed and accredited to offer these certifications as an ACCT Professional Vendor Member (PVM).

Skills Covered:

The Level I certification training will cover the following areas and participants need to have a basic understanding of the skills while being able to demonstrate their ability to apply them in familiar circumstances:

Core Competencies

- Design and develop programs that align with the philosophy, and ethical standards that drive the program
- Develop an awareness of appropriate knowledge of personal abilities and shortfalls as they pertain to facilitation
- Gain understanding of the certification model, using a facilitation portfolio and co continuing education in the field
- Have an understanding of the differences from one challenge course to the next and how this will affect facilitation

Technical Competencies

- Set-up and take down of challenge course elements
- Basic care and maintenance of challenge course elements and equipment
- What to be aware of during daily challenge course assessments
- Rappelling, and belaying
- Spotting assessment, instruction, and use
- Challenge course rescue procedures (understanding and recognizing but not implementing)
- Basic challenge course policies and procedures, industry standards, local operating procedures

Facilitation Competencies

- Communicate effectively with other staff and groups
- Conduct needs assessment of group
- Design and deliver a program that meets the needs of the group
- Assess individual and group readiness to use elements
- Briefing and frontloading skills (taking into account the group demographics, needs, desires, and dynamics)
- Debriefing and processing skills (taking into account the group demographics, needs, desires, and dynamics)
- Responding appropriately to changes in group or individual dynamics

The major difference between the level I and level II training is the depth of understanding that is needed for certification. In Level I participants are expected to 'minimally meet' or have a basic understanding of the topics covered, while Level II participants will need to be able to apply the topics in most situations and a few complex areas as well.

Hours:

This is a 40 hour training. That is spread out over 4 days along with one day of testing. Attendance is required at all 4 days.

Testing:

Testing will take place on a specific testing day. Participants can choose to test from a list of dates. There will be a comprehensive written and practical test as a part of this program. Participants need to pass both with a minimum of 80% correct to become certified.

Other Details:

- This is a one year certificate that needs to be renewed annually
- Valid First Aid and CPR certifications need to accompany this certificate and be kept up to date
- Minimum age for this certification is 18 years old on the date of workshop completion
- There are no prerequisites for this course
- Prior training is not needed but a general familiarity of challenge courses and their programs is recommended
- Every effort will be taken by the trainers to make sure your training is successful. If you need any special assistance during the testing or training, please talk with the Lead Trainer on the first day of training.

Training Cost: \$550

The cost of the training includes all training materials, meals and lodging.

Testing Cost: \$100

Testing cost does not include meals or lodging.

For information on times, dates & to register:

Please contact Lindsay James at lindsay@teamsynergo.com or 503-452-9451