



## BLBCA Membership Categories & Criteria

### DESCRIPTION OF THE BLBCA

Due to their remoteness, lodge access is mechanized in the winter (mostly by helicopter). In the summer, several lodges are accessible by hiking. Once at the lodge, all activities are non-mechanized, falling in line with our commitment to leave as small a footprint as possible.

All lodges are located in mountainous regions of British Columbia, generally situated at or above treeline in what is generally referred to as the “alpine”.

### BLBCA MISSION

To offer adventurers the most extensive backcountry accommodation network in Canada and to provide a forum for information sharing between member lodges.

### BLBCA VISION

To enable Association lodges to touch the lives of guests with awe-inspiring adventures throughout British Columbia’s inimitable backcountry.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a description of the membership criteria concerning the Backcountry Lodges of BC Association (BLBCA).

In order to be considered for membership in the BLBCA, applicants are asked to meet the following criteria:

- Support the goals and objectives of the BLBCA. Those include but are not limited to:
  - Respect for the backcountry/alpine/wilderness that the BLBCA members operate in.
  - Adherence to land zoning as set out by the governments responsible.
  - Adherence to BC’s Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia.
  - Support of the BLBCA’s marketing initiatives, where applicable.
  - Where applicable, adherence to the employment standards as set out by the appropriate decision maker, typically government.

### CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

The following are classes of membership within the BLBCA:

- a) Full Member
- b) Associate Member
- c) Affiliate Member

### FULL MEMBERSHIP (PROCESS)

- a) Submit a completed application approved by the board to the Board of Directors.
- b) Meet the application criteria for Full Member.
  1. Include a written application submission describing their backcountry operation, or proposed operation.
    - i. Include copy of land permissions granted by the BC government, i.e. Park Use Permit, Adventure Tourism Tenure.



- ii. Outline of business plan, type of activities, access, etc.
- iii. Primary activities must be of a non-mechanized nature. Ancillary and operational, support activities can be of a mechanized nature where necessary and carried in a limited volume.
- iv. Location for the primary operating facility(s) must be in the 'backcountry'. Although there are many definitions available for 'backcountry', for the purposes of this process the BLBCA will ask that the following criteria be met.
  - i. Primary facility will be located in a 'wilderness' setting, any development or settlement will be a reasonable distance away. Access will typically be gained by helicopter or pedestrian means. Operations utilizing 'paved' road access will not be accepted. Applicants that occasionally access their facility utilizing ORVs, snowcats or other off-road (4-wheel drive trucks) vehicles will be considered.
- c) Applications for Full Membership will include a letter of endorsement from an existing and current Full Member of the BLBCA.
- d) Include a written acknowledgement to agree to abide by the BLBCA Bylaws, Code of Ethics and Conduct, Operation Guidelines, Self-Audit Guidelines, and Self-Guided Recommendations.
- e) Membership will be renewed annually and is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December each year. New memberships purchased part way through the year will be prorated on a monthly basis. The rate of annual fees will be determined during the annual AGM.
- f) Full members in good standing are entitled to attend meetings of the Association; elect Members of the Board of Directors and may vote on any resolution placed before the membership.
- g) There is a probationary period is one year from the date of application to ensure member applicant has met the BLBCA Bylaws, Code of Ethics and Conduct, Operation Guidelines, Self-Audit Guidelines, and Self-Guided Recommendations. Upon completion of the one-year probationary period; and with the BLBCA BOD's approval, the applicant will be granted 'full' membership status in the BLBCA.
- h) The BLBCA will respond to the applicant with their decision on the application within 60 days of the application being received. During the 60-day period, the BLBCA BOD may ask the applicant for further information on their application.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- a) Any organization or business shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the BLBCA who is engaged in a related industry and who supports the goals and objectives of the BLBCA as outlined above under the 'General Description' heading.
  - b) Submit an application (letter of interest) which may be approved by the Board of Directors.
  - c) The BLBCA will respond to the applicant with their decision on the application within 60 days of the application being received. During the 60-day period, the BLBCA BOD may ask the applicant for further information on their application.
  - d) Membership will be renewed annually and is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December each year. New memberships purchased part way through the year will be prorated on a monthly basis. The rate of annual fees will be determined in consultation with the applicant and the BLBCA marketing team.
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- e) Associate Members may attend the BLBCA AGM. Associate members are not eligible to vote on any resolution placed before the membership.
- f) Associate Members will consult with the BLBCA marketing team on specific and appropriate marketing campaigns. Strategic marketing initiatives will be explored. Associate members will receive acknowledgement with a favourable placement on the BLBCA website and be including in 'specific' social media campaigns.
- g) Associate members are encouraged to attend and present on specific topics to the general membership at the BLBCA AGM.

#### AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

- a) Any individual (guest, staff, general public) who supports the goals and objectives of the BLBCA as outlined above under the 'General Description' heading.
- b) Affiliate Members are encouraged to attend the public portion of the BLBCA AGM. Affiliate members are not eligible to vote on any resolution placed before the membership.
- c) Membership will be renewed annually and is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December each year. New memberships purchased part way through the year will be prorated on a monthly basis. The current rate of annual membership fees is \$25.00. Affiliate members will be notified of any change to the membership fees prior to renewing their membership.
- d) Benefits to the affiliate member may include but are not limited to the following:
  - i. Support of the BLBCA and its advocacy efforts around land planning/zoning and non-mechanized/mechanized dispute resolutions. Increasing recognition of the contribution that the adventure tourism sector provides to our economy. The BLBCA actively supports Destination BC's 'Super Natural BC' and the "Wild Within' branding. Preserving the natural environment is key to our support of the SARCO (Species at Risk Coordination) as well as informing and educating the public around the sensitivities of the 'backcountry'. The BLBCA helps to enhance safety training by supporting Avalanche Canada, the Canadian Avalanche Association and other associations/initiatives.
  - ii. Receive the BLBCA's quarterly Newsletter & access our popular social media channels.
  - iii. Recognition (if desired) of contribution/support on the BLBCA website.
  - iv. Direct notification of reduced rate trip opportunities due to late cancellations or vacancies at participating BLBCA lodges.
  - v. Participation in applicable BLBCA 'loyalty' programs including discounts at participating retailers and/or manufacturers:
    - Receive a \$25 gift card from True Outdoors after becoming an Affiliate Member.