



CyberTracker Tracking Evaluations

The international gold standard for certifying tracker skill.



At Ngala Training Camp, evaluations can take anywhere from 1 to 3 days, depending on the number of people participating and the conditions. Track and Sign Identification and Interpretation Evaluations (T&S) usually only take one full day to complete, while Trailing Evaluations will take at least two full days for 4 people under good trailing conditions.

For convenience, participants arrive the evening before the evaluation begins, and leave the morning after the evaluation ends. Accommodation and meals are provided in our tented camp. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, a pillow, a towel, and any personal items that you require. There are hot and cold running water showers, flushing toilets, and hand-washing stations in each of our four bathrooms. Some dietary preferences can be catered for (regular and vegetarian), but we recommend that you bring snacks that you can enjoy if your diet is very restricting. There is cabinet and refrigerator space in our kitchen for food and drinks that you might bring. Please alert us to any life-threatening allergies. Water in camp is clean and very drinkable.

**We combine ancient and modern skills in international adventure education:
wildlife tracking and ecology, bushcraft and human culture.**

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Evaluations begin early in the morning, just after the sun rises. There is coffee and tea, and usually various fruit, rusks, and cookies (biscuits) for a quick breakfast.



The social area around our campfire and the spacious ablution facilities at Ngala Training Camp.



Some of our bell tents overlooking the Olifants River, and our kitchen facility at Ngala Training Camp.

T&S evals consist of 3 non-counting, “warm-up” questions, ten 1-point questions (simple complexity), thirty 2-point questions (medium complexity), and ten 3-point questions (difficult complexity), for a total of 53 questions. We can generally complete the first 30 of those in the first 3-4 hours of the day, before we go back to camp for brunch. Bruch is a hot meal, perhaps burgers with chips, or a casserole with green salad. We will take a short rest before heading back out to finish the evaluation. The last questions take longer to find, because the point ratings need to be exact, and it might take the rest of the afternoon to complete the evaluation, or we might find them quickly. After finishing, your evaluator(s) will take some time to calculate scores, print, sign and present certificates. After this, if it is still light then you are free to depart for home, or you can prearrange to stay in camp for dinner (another hot meal) and an overnight sleep before departing in the morning.

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A participant writes her answers to a question in her notebook, and beautiful dwarf mongoose tracks.

Trailing evals sometimes start in the mid-day, if they follow one of our Tracking Intensive programs and all of the participants are already in camp. If not, then at dawn on day 1. This is to try and maximize everyone's opportunity to follow a good trail. Then, that afternoon is followed by 2 solid days of trailing and perhaps the morning of the last day, if needed. Your goal is to find a trail that is fresh enough to follow to the animal, and do it. Trailing evaluations follow the same basic meal schedule as T&S evals, starting at dawn and finishing at dusk on the full days. On the last morning, perhaps after a short trail, your evaluator(s) will take some time to calculate scores, print, sign and present certificates. After this, you are free to depart for home. You should be in town by noon.



Trackers on the trail, and a fresh elephant trail shows feeding behaviour and dung.

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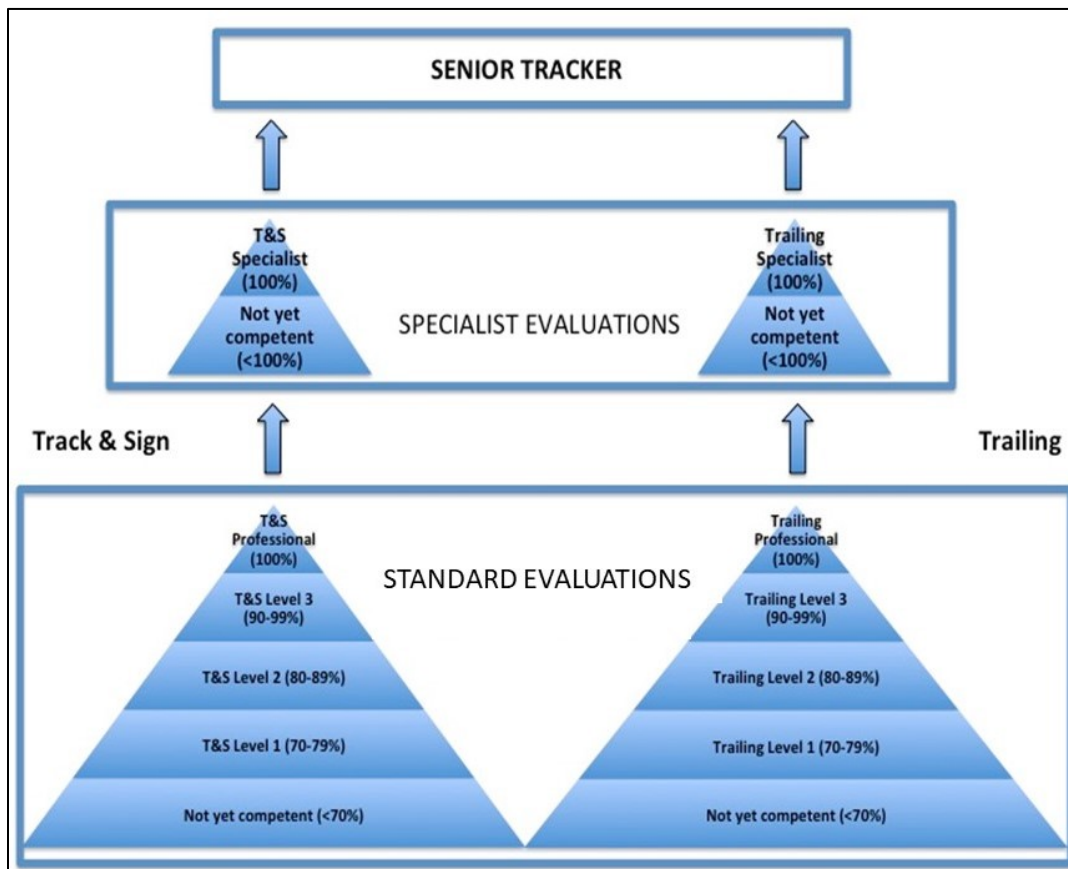
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More about the process:

There are two different types of evaluations, given at two levels of increasing difficulty. The first type is a Track and Sign Identification and Interpretation Evaluation (T&S). The second type is a Trailing Evaluation. The two levels are a standard level evaluation, and a specialist level evaluation. Four levels of certification can be earned in a standard evaluation: Level 1 = 70-79%, Level 2 = 80-89%, Level 3 = 90-99%, Professional Level = 100%.

A Level 1 score in a T&S eval, plus a Level 1 score in a Trailing eval, earns one a Tracker 1 certificate and standing, as well. Whereas, A Level 2 score in a T&S eval, plus a Level 1 score in a Trailing eval, still earns one a Tracker 1 certificate because the Tracker certificate is only awarded to the lowest level earned.

When a participant earns a Professional level in either T&S or Trailing, they are invited to attend the respective Specialist evaluation, where, on a pass/fail basis, they have the opportunity to score 100% and achieve the Specialist level. A participant who earns a Specialist certification in both T&S and Trailing becomes one of the few Senior Trackers in the world. There are approximately 50 Senior Trackers in the world, only one of whom is a woman.



The progression of a tracker from not-yet competent at the bottom to Senior Tracker at the top.

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Your evaluators:

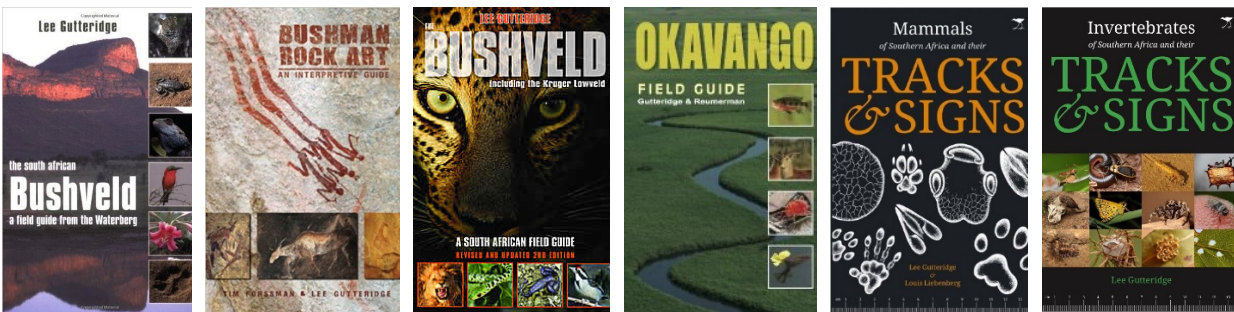


Kersey Lawrence is the first woman in the world to earn the rank of Senior Tracker in the internationally renowned CyberTracker system, and as such she stands as the sole female amongst the few dozen men who have also earned this rigorous qualification. In addition to her decade of guiding experience, Kersey also has several degrees in science and education, and is currently completing her Ph.D. through the University of Connecticut, where she also received an award for excellence in teaching. Kersey owns **Original Wisdom**, an education company offering both local programs in the USA and study abroad programs in Southern Africa in ecology, culture and tracking. Courses are custom designed according to the academic requirements and adventurous desires of the visiting faculty, professor, or group leader. Kersey's passionate approach to interpreting tracks and signs in nature and following trails will amaze and inspire you, as you spend time with her in the Africa she now calls home.



Lee Gutteridge has spent all of his adult life in the African bush, with more than 25 years of dirt-time. Lee is currently the highest qualified field guide in Southern Africa (a Scout guide on the FGASA system, with many additional specializations) and the author of six published natural history books, to date. Lee's company, **Nature Guide Training** began over fifteen years ago as a training school for field guides in the safari industry in Southern Africa and has a well-earned reputation as an industry leader whose graduates are employed by some of the finest lodges across Africa. As a respected guide and trainer of guides, a Senior Tracker and a wildlife author, Lee will educate and inspire you with passionate tales of African animals, wildlife trails and close escapes.

Books by Lee Gutteridge:



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