



Experience a different 9 to 5
with a summer job at the
Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger Search and Rescue

Location	Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, Aoraki/Mount Cook District
Dates of Employment	September 2026 to February 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$65,590 to \$76,589

Mō te tūranga | About the role

As a Search and Rescue Ranger based in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Village within the Search and Rescue work group, this role focuses on delivering alpine search and rescue response, training, and programme development within a highly specialised and physically demanding environment. You will contribute to emergency response capability while maintaining high standards of alpine competency and safety.

Key Tasks

- Deliver search and rescue response operations in alpine environments
- Participate in training, programme maintenance, and development
- Maintain operational readiness and competency in alpine conditions
- Support visitor safety, hazard management and information delivery
- Contribute to avalanche risk assessment and forecasting
- Participate in standby and duty officer rosters
- Mentor and support team capability development
- Support the delivery of the Aoraki Heritage and Visitor programme as and when required

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

Core capabilities:

- Great team player
- Strong planning and organisational skills with the ability to deliver outcomes
- High personal and professional standards
- Ability to identify opportunities for improvement and make sound decisions
- Strong collaboration skills, working effectively across teams and with external stakeholders
- Ability to engage with iwi and tangata whenua and understand Treaty obligations

- Clear and engaging communication skills
- Resilience and adaptability in high-pressure environments

Essential specialist skills:

- High-level competency in rock/ice climbing, mountaineering, and alpine skiing
- Demonstrated experience and currency in alpine climbing disciplines (NZMGA standard logbook)
- Ability to climb to Aoraki/Mount Cook seriousness grade III and rock grade 16 (trad)
- New Zealand Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management (Level 5) or equivalent
- PHEC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care) qualification (or equivalent)
- Competence using computer systems (e.g. Word, Excel, cloud-based tools)
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Desirable:

- Experience in search and rescue or emergency management
- Avalanche forecasting capability
- Visitor hazard management experience
- Rope access or working at height experience
- Advanced guiding qualifications (NZMGA, IFMGA or equivalent)
- Advanced avalanche, risk management, or emergency management qualifications
- Advanced medical qualifications (e.g. EMT)

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

You will be part of a Search and Rescue team based in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, working alongside staff across Visitor Centre, Heritage and Visitor, Community, Search and Rescue, and Local Body Services functions. We work as one team.

The Aoraki/Mount Cook District is part of the Te Wāhipounamu UNESCO World Heritage Area and covers approximately 70,000 hectares of alpine terrain dominated by the Southern Alps and Aoraki/Mount Cook. The area includes iconic locations such as Tasman Glacier, Hooker Valley, and Mueller Hut, and is a key destination for climbers and visitors. The role requires living in Aoraki/Mount Cook Village, a small and remote alpine community with direct access to world-class mountaineering terrain.

Additional Information

Roster: Includes weekends and public holidays; flexible hours required. Flexibility required to cover staff leave and peak periods

Accommodation: Shared DOC accommodation may be available (market rent applies); private options may also be available

Number of positions: 1

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Seasonal Jobs seasonaljobs@doc.govt.nz