



Cradle of Liberty Council

Safety Tips for Climbing

Selections from the Guide to Safe Scouting

1. Qualified Supervision

- “All climbing and rappelling must be supervised by a mature, conscientious adult at least 21 years of age who understands the risks inherent to these activities. This adult supervisor is trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of the Boy Scouts of America's Climb On Safely procedure. One additional adult who is at least 18 years of age must also accompany the unit. Units with more than 10 youths in the same climbing/rappelling session must have an additional adult leader at least 18 years of age for each 10 additional youth participants...”
- “The adult supervisor is responsible for ensuring that someone in the group is currently trained in American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR (a 6-1/2 hour course). In addition, the two-hour module ‘First Aid—When Help Is Delayed’ is recommended...”

2. Qualified Instructors

- “A qualified rock climbing instructor who is at least 21 years of age must supervise all BSA climbing/rappelling activities.”

3. Physical Fitness

- “Require evidence of fitness for the climbing/rappelling activity with at least a current BSA Personal Health and Medical Record—Class 1, No. 34414A.”

4. Safe Area

- “All BSA climbing/rappelling activities must be conducted using an established climbing/rappelling site or facility, including a portable or commercial facility.”

5. Equipment

- “The climbing instructor should verify that the proper equipment is available for the size and ability level of participants.”
- “An approved climbing helmet must be worn during all BSA climbing/rappelling activities when the participant's feet are more than shoulder height above ground level. When using a commercial climbing gym, the climbing facility's procedures apply.”

6. Planning

- “Obtain written parental consent to participate in climbing/rappelling activities for each participant.”
- “Share the climbing/rappelling plan and an alternate with parents and the unit committee.”
- “Secure the necessary permits or written permission for using private or public lands.”
- “Be sure the instructor has a map for the area being used and obtains a current weather report for the area before the group's departure.”
- “Before any activity, an adult leader should develop and share an emergency plan that includes the location of a nearby medical facility and the means of communicating with parents during the outing.”

7. Environmental Conditions

- “The instructor, each adult leader, and each participant assumes responsibility for monitoring potentially dangerous environmental conditions.... Use the buddy system to monitor concerns such as dehydration, hypothermia, and an unusually high degree of fear or apprehension.”

8. Discipline

- “Each participant knows, understands, and respects the rules and procedures for safely climbing and rappelling and has been oriented in Climb On Safely and Leave No Trace. All BSA members should respect and follow all instructions and rules of the climbing instructor.”



For additional health and safety information, consult the Guide to Safe Scouting and the other resources available at the national Scouting Safely website at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety>.