



*Serving the Youth of the
Silicon Valley for Over 80 Years*

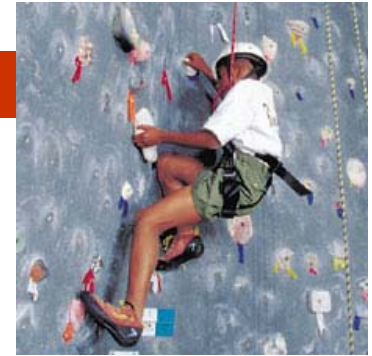
Powwow/University of Scouting

Climb on Safely Training and Certification

January 19, 2008

Instructed by Tom Lackovic

Introduction



Climb On Safely is the Boy Scouts of America's recommended procedure for organizing BSA climbing/rappelling activities at a natural site or a specifically designed facility such as a climbing wall or tower.

Purpose

To help Adult Leaders organize and carry out a safe climbing or rappelling activity for their unit, like Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

 **Safe Swim Defense**

— This is to verify that —

_____ has satisfactorily completed specific instruction in Safe Swim Defense and has agreed to use the eight defenses in this plan on every occasion when _____ (unit and No.) goes swimming.

This card is good for two years from date: _____

_____ Council
Boy Scouts of America

Signed: _____
Aquatics Course Instructor Approved by Council
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Why Climb or Rappel ?



Climb on Safely

A Guide to Unit Climbing and Rappelling



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Climb on Safely

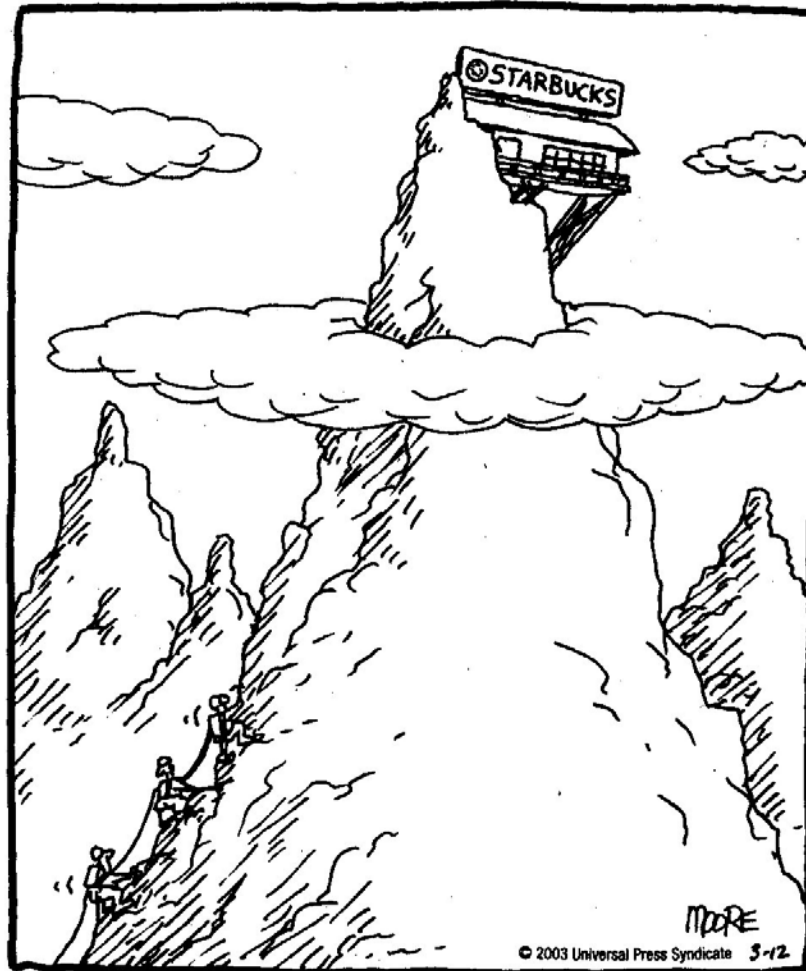
A Guide to Unit Climbing and Rappelling



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Starbucks

IN THE BLEACHERS by STEVE MOORE



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Crew Approach





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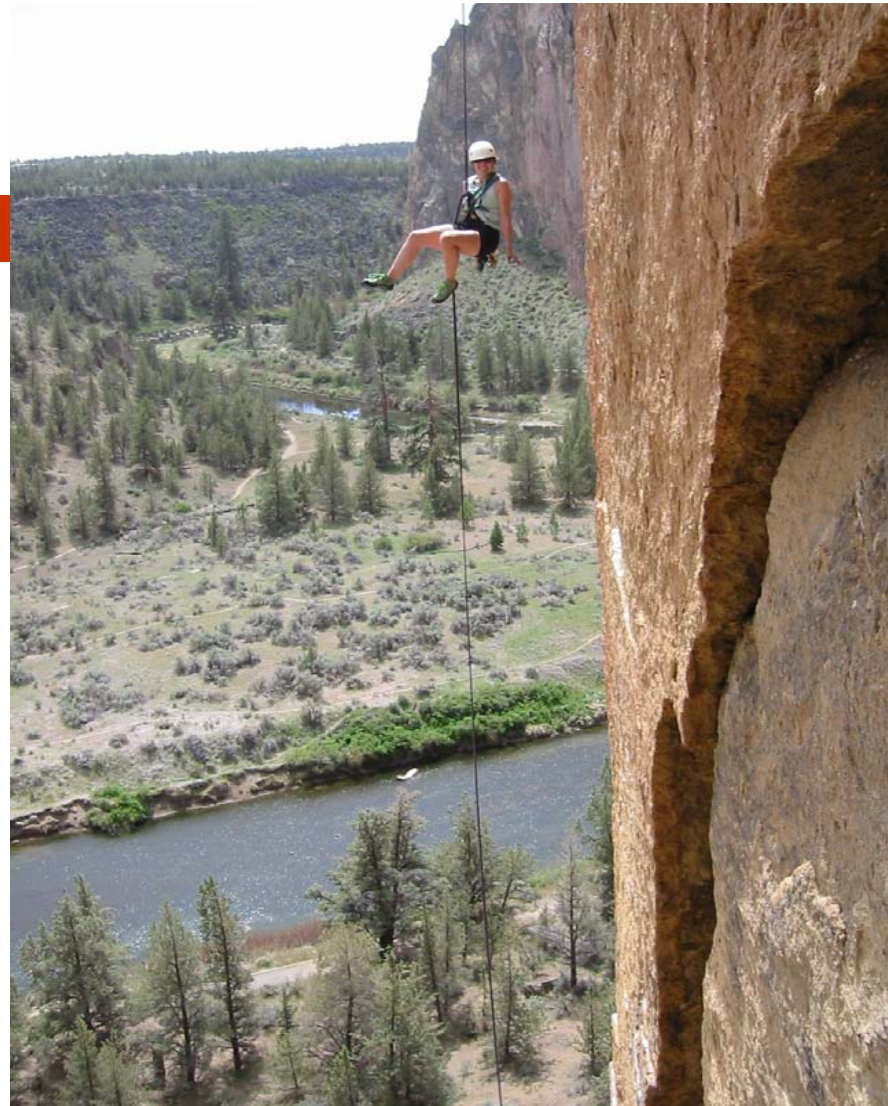
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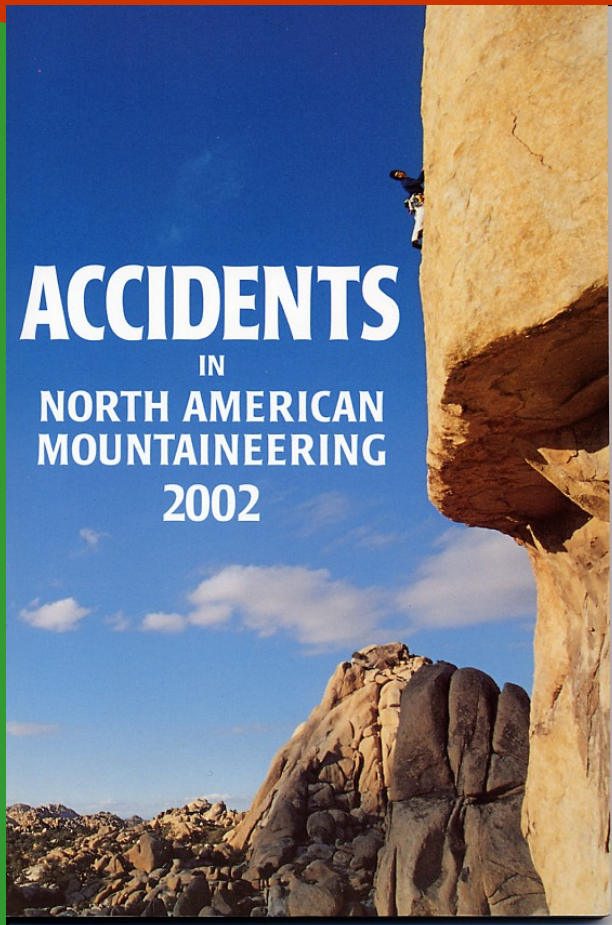
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Why Climb or Rappel ?

- **Personal Challenge**
- **Personal Satisfaction**
- **Climbing Gyms and Facilities available**
- **Because it's there**

The Problem ?



Accidents & Close Calls

Exceeding Abilities

Unsafe Practices

Weather and Environment

Not Disciplined



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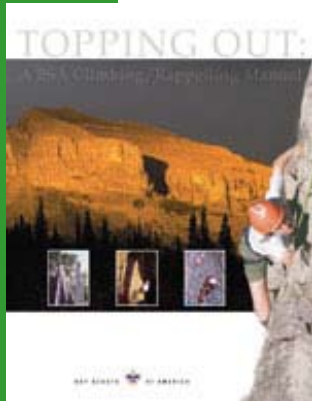
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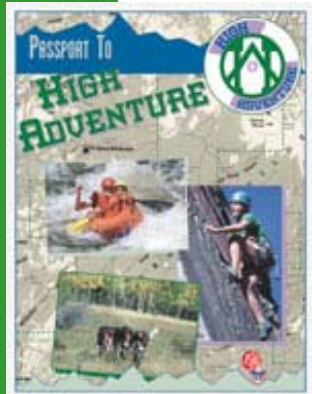
The Response to the Problem



Scouting is to provide for the safety of those participating in climbing / rappelling activities.



Climb on Safely program is designed to prevent accidents.



The Policy



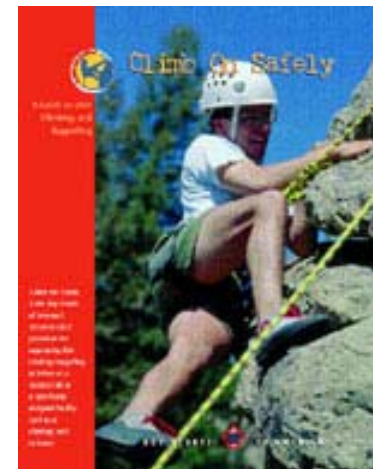
Adult Leaders must have an appreciation of the hazards they may encounter and take the steps to reduce the risk.

BSA Youth Protection. All adult leaders should comply with local council's youth protection procedures.

Adherence to the eight points of Climb on Safely will help units avoid significant risks

Eight points

- 1. Qualified Supervision***
- 2. Qualified Instructors***
- 3. Physical Fitness***
- 4. Safe Area***
- 5. Equipment***
- 6. Planning***
- 7. Environmental Conditions***
- 8. Discipline***



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
- 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.
- Ensures that someone in the group is currently certified in American Red Cross Standard First Aid



2. Qualified Instructors

- A qualified instructor who is at least 21 years of age must supervise all BSA climbing/rappelling activities.
- Instructors must complete a minimum of 10 hours of instructor training for climbing/rappelling from a nationally or regionally recognized organization or be a qualified BSA climbing instructor.
- Prior experiences in teaching climbing/rappelling to youth.
- Agree to adhere to Climb On Safely and the guidelines set in *Topping Out*.



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. 34414.
- Class 2 or 3 for any climbing activity lasting longer than 72 hours.
- When accidents occur, they are frequently related to unknown physical conditions or physical problem.
- Climbing / rappelling requires that the person in charge review the medical record for each participant.
- Good safety requires an understanding of the risks of any individual health conditions.



4. Safe Area

- All climbing activities must use an established or developed climbing site or facility.
- A qualified instructor checks the site in advance to evaluate possible hazards and ensure it is suitable for the intended participants.
- Will the site accommodate the number of participants safely.
- Emergency evacuation route identified in advance.



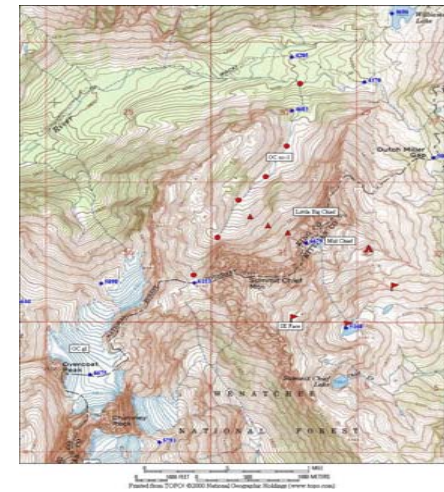
5. Equipment

- Climbing Instructor should verify that the proper equipment is available for the size and ability of the participants.
- Helmets, rope and climbing hardware must be approved by the UIAA and/or CE.
- All equipment must be acquired new or furnished by the instructor.
- Records must be kept on the uses & stresses on each item of equipment, number of falls on rope, etc. *See Topping Out for more information on records.*
- Any rope or webbing that has been subjected to more than 3 hard falls or that is over four years old should not be used.



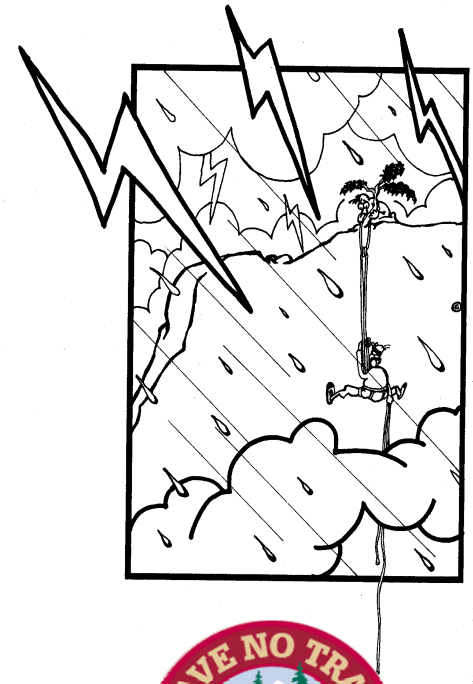
6. Planning

- Obtain written parental consent to participate in climbing/rappelling activities for each participant.
- In the event of severe weather or other problem, 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.
- Enlist the help of a qualified climbing instructor.
- Be sure the instructor has a topographic map for the area being used and obtains a current weather report for the area before the group's departure.



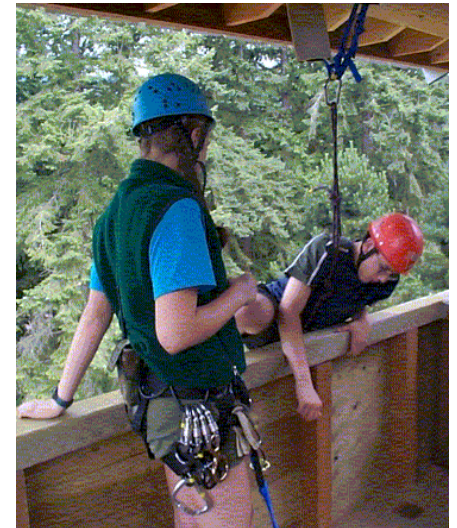
7. Environmental Conditions

- The instructor assumes responsibility for monitoring potentially dangerous environmental conditions, such as: wet rock, poisonous plants, wildlife, and inclement weather.
- Adult leader is responsible to ensure Leave No Trace is followed.
- Check weather forecasts before departure.
- Use the Buddy System to monitor dehydration, hypothermia, unusually high degree of fear or apprehension. Challenge by Choice.
- Buddy System ensures no one climbs alone or without proper supervision.



8. Discipline

- Recognize that youth of Scouting age who are having fun with friends in and around a climbing area may not pay attention to their own safety. They usually are not able to protect themselves fully.
- For the above reason, **qualified supervision** is the first and most important element of Climb of Safely.
- For supervision to be effective, there must be **discipline**.
- All climbing/rappelling participants should know, understand and follow the BSA's safety rules and procedures.
- Involving Scouts in the planning is a good way to promote cooperation and discipline.



***Qualified Supervision and
Discipline are the basis for all the
other Climb On Safely rules.***

Questions ?

