

SCOUTS-L

CLIMBING

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> **Tue Mar 4 12:11:40 1997**
Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtpe@pucc.Princeton.EDU [128.112.129.99]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with SMTP id MAA04841; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 12:11:40 -0500**
Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)
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Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 6278; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 12:05:02 -0500**
Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin LISTSERV@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 7369; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 11:06:07 -0600**
Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV release 1.8b)
 with NJE id 7361 for SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 11:04:37 -0600**
Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 7359; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 11:04:35 -0600**
Received: from iceland.it.earthlink.net by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)
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Received: from 206.85.98.90 (max1-rs-ca-40.earthlink.net [206.85.98.90]) by iceland.it.earthlink.net (8.7.5/8.7.3) with SMTP id JAA24984; **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 09:02:12 -0800 (PST)**
X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.0 (Macintosh; U; PPC)
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Message-ID: <331C5685.5EDF@earthlink.net>
Date: **Tue, 4 Mar 1997 09:06:13 -0800**
Reply-To: STEVEN GRAFSTROM <smogsteve@EARTHLINK.NET>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: STEVEN GRAFSTROM <smogsteve@EARTHLINK.NET>
Organization: S G Construction Services
Subject: Climbing Merit Badge
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO

X-Status:

OK. HERE ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLIMBING MERIT BADGE.

- 1. Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that may occur during climbing activities, including hypothermia, blisters, sprains, abrasions, and fractures.**
- 2. Present yourself properly dressed for belaying, climbing, and rappelling (i.e., appropriate clothing, footwear, and a helmet; rappellers must also wear gloves).**
- 3. LOCATION. Do the following:**
 - a. Explain the mountaineers (free climbers) climbing classifications to the rock faces or walls where you will demonstrate your climbing and rappelling skills.**
 - b. Evaluate the safety of a particular climbing area.**
 - a. Consider weather visibility, the condition of the climbing surface, and any environmental hazards.**
 - c. Determine how to summon aid to the climbing area in case of an emergency.**
- 4. VERBAL SIGNALS. Explain the importance of using verbal signals during every climb and rappel, With the help of the merit badge counselor or another scout, demonstrate the verbal signals used by each of the following:**
 - a. Climbers**
 - b. rappellers**
 - c. Belayers**
- 5. ROPE. Do the following:**
 - a. Describe the kind of rope acceptable for use in climbing and rappelling.**
 - b. Show how to examine a rope for signs of wear or**

damage.

- c. Discuss ways to prevent a rope from being damaged.
- e. Properly coil a rope.

6. **KNOTS.** Demonstrate the ability to tie each of the following knots. Give at least one example of how each knot is used in belaying,

climbing, or rappelling.

- a. Figure eight on a bight.
- b. Figure eight follow-through.
- c. Water knot.
- d. Grapevine knot.
- e. Bowline on a coil.

7. **HARNESSES.** Correctly put on at least ONE of the following:

- a. Commercially made climbing harness
- b. Knotted leg-loop seat sling
- c. Swiss seat sling
- d. Diaper sling

8. **BELAYING.** Do the following:

a. Explain the importance of belaying every climber and rappeller.

b. Belay three different climbers ascending a rock face or climbing wall.

c. Belay three different rappellers descending a rock face or rappelling wall.

9. **CLIMBING.** Do the following:

a. Show the correct way to tie into a belay rope.

b. Climb at least three different routes on a rock face or climbing

wall, demonstrating good technique and using verbal signals with a belayer.

10. **RAPPELLING.** Do the following:

a. Using carabiners and a rappel device, secure your climbing

harness or seat to a rappel rope.

b. Tie in to a belay rope set up to protect rappelling

ers.

c. Rappel down three different rock faces or three
rappel routs on a climbing wall. Use verbal signals to co
mmunicate with a belayer,
and demonstrate good rappelling techniqu
e.

11. Demonstrate ways to store rope, hardware, and other gear used
for climbing, rappelling, and belaying.

Those are the requirments . Now how do we evaluate the merit badge
councilers? Should we require them to have a certain amount of training?
Should there be an age ond or rank attained before a scout can try for this
badge? This could become an insurance problem in the future. Please post
any ideas .

Yours in scouting. Steve Grafstrom ASM Venture, Brotherhood, High
adventure team member . CIEC, Troop 270. So. California

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Fri Mar
7 11:55:39 1997

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtpd@pucc.Princeton.EDU
[128.112.129.99]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with SMTP id
LAA24373; Fri, 7 Mar 1997 11:55:39 -0500

Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM
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with BSMTP id 0878; Fri, 07 Mar 97 11:48:58 EST

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by
PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 1533; Fri, 7 Mar
1997 11:47:15 -0500

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin LISTSERV@TCUBVM) by
TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 3722; Fri,
7 Mar 1997 10:48:19 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV
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1997

10:47:35 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

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Received: from lithuania.it.earthlink.net by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP

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Received: from 206.85.98.50 (max1-rs-ca-00.earthlink.net [206.85.98.50]) by

lithuania.it.earthlink.net (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id IAA22674; Fri, 7 Mar 1997 08:43:22 -0800 (PST)

X-Mailer: Mozilla 3.01 (Macintosh; U; PPC)

MIME-Version: 1.0

References: <331C564A.559F@earthlink.net>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Message-ID: <332046E7.20E5@earthlink.net>

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 1997 08:48:50 -0800

Reply-To: STEVEN GRAFSTROM <smogsteve@EARTHLINK.NET>

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: STEVEN GRAFSTROM <smogsteve@EARTHLINK.NET>

Organization: S G Construction Services

Subject: Re: Climbing Merit Badge

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

X-Status:

STEVEN GRAFSTROM wrote:

>

> OK. HERE ARE THE REQUIRMENTS FOR THE CLIMBING MERIT BADGE.

>

> 1. Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that may occur

> during climbing activities, jincluding hypothermia, bl
isters,sprains,

> abrasions, and fractures.

>

> 2. Present yourself properly dressed for belaying,climbing, and

> rappelling(i.e., appropriate clothing, footwear, and a helmet; rappellers
> must also wear gloves).

>

> 3. LOCATION. Do the following:

> a. Explain the mountaineers (free climbers) climb
ing classifications

>

to the rock faces or walls where you

will demonstrate your

> climbing and rappelling skills.
> b. Evaluate the safety of a particular climbing area. Consider weather

> visibility, the condition of the climbing surface, and any
> environmental hazards.

> c. Determine how to summon aid to the climbing area in case of an
> emergency.

> 4. VERBAL SIGNALS. Explain the importance of using verbal signals during every climb and rappel, With the help of the merit badge

> counselor or another scout, demonstrate the verbal signals used by
> each of the following:

- > a. Climbers
- > b. rappellers
- > c. Belayers

> 5. ROPE. Do the following:

> a. Describe the kind of rope acceptable for use in climbing and
> rappelling.

> b. Show how to examine a rope for signs of wear or
> r damage.

> c. Discuss ways to prevent a rope from being damaged.
> e. Properly coil a rope.

> 6. KNOTS. Demonstrate the ability to tie each of the following knots. Give at least one example of how each knot is used in
> belaying,

- > climbing, or rappelling.
- > a. Figure eight on a bight.
- > b. Figure eight follow-through.
- > c. Water knot.
- > d. Grapevine knot.
- > e. Bowline on a coil.

> 7. HARNESS. Correctly put on at least ONE of the following:

- > a. Commercially made climbing harness
- > b. Knotted leg-loop seat sling

- > c. Swiss seat sling
- > d. Diaper sling
- >
- > **8. BELAYING. Do the following:**
- > a. Explain the importance of belaying every climber and rappeller.
- > b. Belay three different climbers ascending a rock face or climbing wall.
- > c. Belay three different rappellers descending a rock face or rappel wall.
- >
- >
- > **9. CLIMBING. Do the following:**
- > a. Show the correct way to tie into a belay rope.
- > b. Climb at least three different routes on a rock face or climbing wall, demonstrating good technique and using verbal signals with a belayer.
- >
- >
- > **10. RAPPELLING. Do the following:**
- > a. Using carabiners and a rappel device, secure your climbing harness or seat to a rappel rope.
- > b. Tie in to a belay rope set up to protect rappellers.
- > c. Rappel down three different rock faces or three rappel routes on a climbing wall. Use verbal signals to communicate with a belayer, and demonstrate good rappelling technique.
- >
- >
- > **11. Demonstrate ways to store rope, hardware, and other gear used for climbing, rappelling, and belaying.**
- >
- >

Please Add Requirement

- 5. d. Explain when and how a rope should be retired.

Sorry about this previous omission. I was trying to put this out before I started work.

Yours in scouting
Steve Grafstrom
Troop 270
Riverside, CA

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Mon
Mar 10 08:45:11 1997

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtp@pucc.Princeton.EDU
[128.112.129.99]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with SMTP id
IAA00111; Mon, 10 Mar 1997 08:45:11 -0500

Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM
SMTP V2R2)

with BSMTP id 0311; Mon, 10 Mar 97 08:39:46 EST

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by
PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 3242; Mon, 10
Mar 1997 08:38:19 -0500

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin LISTSERV@TCUBVM) by
TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 7067; Mon,
10 Mar 1997 07:39:20 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV
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1997

07:38:30 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by
TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

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Received: from x4.boston.juno.com by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP
V2R2) with

TCP; Mon, 10 Mar 97 07:38:25 CST

Received: (from blainej@juno.com) by x4.boston.juno.com (queuemail) id
IaX10920; Mon, 10 Mar 1997 08:34:41 EST

References: <331C5685.5EDF@earthlink.net>

X-Mailer: Juno 1.22

X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 1-4,6-8,12-13,22-23,26-31,36-40,42-43,45-48,50-55,
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Message-ID: <19970310.070708.11654.1.blainej@juno.com>
Date: Sun, 9 Mar 1997 19:43:56 -0600
Reply-To: "Blaine A. Jackson" <blainej@JUNO.COM>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: "Blaine A. Jackson" <blainej@JUNO.COM>
Subject: Re: Climbing Merit Badge
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

On Sat, 8 Mar 1997 12:28:15 -0500 Andrew Hagemann
<hagemann@VISI.NET>
writes:

Comments on Andrew and Steven's discussion:

Apologies for the long post, but since I just spent the whole week end in a course and discussions about these things, I have to speak:

I was asked by my CE Friday if I would serve as the Chairman of the Council "Climbing" Committee. I am not sure if that will be its name, or if it will become a broader area. The immediate concern is developing procedures for camp climbing and rappelling towers.

This week end I served on the "staff" of an Explorer Tower Training course. It was basically a "for fun" outing with a very strong emphasis on safety and skills. We attempted to train several Explorer advisors to help on the tower. The week-end was lead by a "Certified Rope Rescue Technician", and assisted by another rope rescue person, a Special Tactics EMT and me (I am certified by 3 Challenge course schools, and am a WFR.) We were assisted by my 15 year old son and a 16 year old Explorer, both of whom had worked on camp staff on the climbing tower we were using.

(BTW, my son competed the "Climbing Merit Badge" requirements as he worked on the course. As soon as we can register the course leader as a MB counselor for Climbing, I will submit his blue card.)

**>>Those are the requirments . Now how do we evaluate the merit badge
>> councilers?**

Our new committee will be developing standards for leaders to use the climbing tower in non-Council sponsored activities. I think that our standards for use of a tower would probably be appropriate for qualifying a MB counselor. When they are complete, I will post them -- but do not hold your breath, I am sure it will be after I return from Virginia.

**>> Should we require them to have a certain amount of training?
Obviously I think there should be.**

>> Should there be an age and or rank attained before a scout can try for this badge?

No. With a trained instructor, almost any scout should be able to earn it.

**>>This could become an insurance problem in the future.
If proper procedures and rules are followed, it should not. Read the recent article in Scouting about the history of canoeing in BSA.**

>I have taught Scouts of all ranks, ages, mental abilities, physical builds, and physical capabilities to rappel. I have always avoided teaching them to climb because I do not wish to exclude any Scout from this thrilling adventure. . . . So, rather than exclude fat people, people with bad knees, people with bad backs, and people who think they must use their arms to haul themselves up the rock face (thus failing miserably), I pick a site where they can ride down the static line and walk a trail back to the top for another ride.

>

I agree almost 100%. As an "older", "fat" person with bad knees, I prefer rappelling; although I usually do try to climb once each time we set up on a rock face. I agree that no scout should be excluded from rappelling, but I do not agree that that fact is sufficient reason to exclude some of them from climbing. Site selection is the key; pick a place where some can walk up and some can climb. Often we rapel first and then climb. Most of those who cannot, or do not want to, climb (such as my wife) will retire from the activity to the campsite first, and those who want can remain to climb.

>Now, should we require that counselors have some sort of certification? Training, YES. Certification, NO. Climbing schools

cost thousands of >dollars and are located out in western USA. Too expensive and too remote. >Unrealistic.

Go to a good challenge course school (essentially the same as COPE). They do not deal directly with climbing, but do some rappelling. In any case, however, the emphasis on safety, knots and philosophy will be excellent training for working with scouts in climbing and rappelling. I use the other activities (initiative games, etc.) as introductory activities to a climbing and rappelling course.

>How, then, did I learn this sport?

Buy and read "On Rope".

Buy and read "CMC Rappel Manual"

Buy (if it is still available) and watch "A Scouting Approach to Rock Climbing", from Troop 381, 5011 Neosho, Shawnee Mission, KS 66205.

After you go to the Challenge Course school, read these books, etc., then find a experienced and safety conscious person to work with you.

>>I liked his safety consciousness, his careful, precise, site management technique,

>and his "Challenge By Choice" manner,. . .

When you say "Challenge by Choice" you can be virtually assured that he was trained for a COPE or Challenge Course. This is one of the key philosophies of both.

>Does my Council "approve" of my rappeling activity? They don't know I

>do it. How would the Council evaluate me if they did? I guess they'd

>probably have me demonstrate my proficiency before one of their favorite

>high-COPE instructors.

Not a bad idea, BUT, COPE is a different program, and not all ideas or rules carry over.

>>You bet. Before I acquired my own rig, I borrowed gear from another Troop, my SM >>putting me in touch with his SM friend to arrange for the loan. I hate being

>a borrower all the time, so I've begun to acquire my own rig at my expense.

I am sorry to be critical, but there are two bad examples here. The old adage, "Neither a borrower or lender be." is perfect for this situation. The care and maintenance of "Life Supporting Equipment" (and that is what we are talking about here) is critical. I am disappointed in the SM and Troop which loaned you the gear. Not only are there issues of liability and safety for the lender, but also for the borrower. For any well trained, safety concious, "rope" person, there is only one rule: DO NOT LOAN EQUIPMENT -- DO NOT BORROW EQUIPMENT.

This may seem a little hard-nosed to many, but I will not risk the safety of myself, my family (all of whom rappel) or my scouts by letting someone else use the equipment. If another leader or troop wants to go rappelling, they may use my equipment, but they have to take me with them. At an informal meeting of leaders this week-end, it was unanimous that even after we have developed new criteria, procedures and requirements for the use of the tower, the camp's climbing equipment should not be used or available. Any unit coming in to use the tower would have to bring their own equipment.

(As an example, i have 6 "sport 8's" and 2 "rescue 8's" (About \$100 worth) hanging on the wall above my computer desk. They were taken out of service because the camp staff knew that "two of them had been dropped on rock" but did not know which two.)

>>I'm still just a bit short of all I need (lacking three harnesses and bump hats), so we haven't gone rappeling lately. But as soon as my wife goes back to work again (laid off, sigh) I'll be able to finish my purchases and the Troop will be "On belay".

>

Just a question here. Why waste money on "bump hats"; why not buy certified helmets that have far more uses. Rappellers should be wearing helmets, and "bump hats" are not appropriate for them. You should be able to buy certified helmets for \$40.00; it is worth the money. I assume that you are using them only for bottom belayers on rappels in any case.

While I am preaching about gear, you should only buy NEW gear, rope and webbing, made by a recognized company. I love garage sales for troop cooking gear and such, but this is not the place for bargain basement shopping. (I once passed up a 200 foot static rope for \$50 in a pawn shop that did not show any sign of use.)

DO NOT buy used gear, rope or webbing.

DO NOT buy or use "home-made" gear. (A properly tied "swiss seat" is allowed by most BSA documents, but a commercially sewn seat harness is much better.)

DO NOT use anything other than nylon kernmantle static line for rappelling. For Scout uses, this is also the appropriate rope for climbing since all climbs should be "top-roped".

I hesitate to name names, but for sport gear, Blue Water, Black Diamond, Petzl, ABC, Omega, and PMI are common suppliers. Shop around and you can

find better prices; they will not be cheap, but I I am "hanging out" 100 feet off the ground, I do not want a carabiner made out of recycled aluminum cans..

I note that Andrew is going to Jambo. Perhaps I will see you there. I plan to spend at least a couple of days observing the "rope activities" there for ideas.

YIS,

Blaine Jackson (J.D.)SM T450 Bentonville, Arkansas1st SA Jambo T1807I used to be a Bodacious BobwhiteI will always be a RazorbackI am trying to raise Eagles