

Council Climbing/Rappelling Policies

The following information applies to all groups participating in any Great Southwest Council or district climbing/rappelling activity, including use of any facility or equipment at the Chimayo Scout Reservation. This information is to be included with corresponding Camp Facilities Reservation Forms.

General Policies:

1. All climbing/rappelling participants must be registered members or leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.
2. All climbing/rappelling participants shall comply with the following Boy Scouts of America (BSA) policy and guidance: "*Climb On Safely, A Guide to Unit Climbing and Rappelling*," current edition, "*Topping Out, A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual*," current edition, "*Climbing and Rappelling National Standards*," current edition and "*Guide to Safe Scouting*", current edition.
3. Only "top-roping" shall be allowed at any Great Southwest Council climbing facilities, properties or activities.

Specific Policies:

1. All provisions for two-deep leadership shall apply to climbing and rappelling activities.
2. Each participant (including adults) shall have a properly completed and signed BSA Class 1, 2, or 3 (as appropriate) medical form prior to arriving at the climbing activity and which shall be presented for review to the Council representative at the time of check-in.
3. The unit or provisional unit shall present to the Council representative upon arrival at the activity/camp an approved Climbing/Rappelling Reservation form (including evidence of payment), two BSA certified directors/instructors each of which shall have in his/her possession a currently valid "BSA Climbing Instructor/Director" card, and one adult currently certified in American Red Cross Standard First Aid training (or equivalent) that includes CPR. Failure to provide a currently valid "BSA Climbing Instructor/Director" card or Standard First Aid and CPR certification shall constitute grounds to terminate all scheduled climbing/rappelling activities.
4. The unit or provisional unit shall present to the Council representative upon arrival at the climbing/rappelling activity a valid unit Tour Permit (if required) and a complete roster of participants (youth and adults) with name, address and emergency contact person telephone number.
5. The unit or provisional unit shall have available: (a) an operational cell phone and/or a two-way radio (may be provided by Council representative contact) while utilizing the climbing venue; and, (b) a proposed safety plan in the event of an emergency.
6. The Great Southwest Council shall provide all climbing equipment. However, personal helmets and harnesses (appropriately certified by UIAA or CEN) as well as climbing shoes may be used upon inspection and approval of a supervising climbing

director/instructor. Personal helmets and harnesses may not be used past seven years from the date of purchase.

7. The supervising adult shall inspect the climbing site for identifiable hazards. Hazards must be corrected before the activity begins.
8. A site and safety orientation shall be conducted for participants by a climbing director/instructor before the climbing/rappelling activity begins. A checklist shall be used to ensure that all points are covered.
9. The climbing directors/instructors shall inspect all equipment being utilized for the event prior to use. In the event of any suspected equipment damage or disrepair immediately notify the Council representative of the suspect equipment and do not use the equipment under any circumstances. Note inspection results and use on the appropriate equipment log.
10. Site anchors and all anchor rigging must be inspected and approved by at least two responsible adults, one of whom must be a certified climbing director or instructor, before any climbing or rappelling is allowed.
11. Prior to beginning a climb/rappel, all climbing harnesses and carabiners shall be double-checked prior to usage. One inspection shall be accomplished by an adult climbing director/instructor or assistant prior to usage to ensure that: carabiners will properly lock; figure eight's or ATC's, ropes, and helmets are without obvious external damage or excessive wear; harnesses and ropes are properly fitted, secured and routed.
12. Prior to beginning a climb/rappel, each climber/rappeller and belayer must inspect each other's equipment before starting to climb or rappel. A supervising adult shall perform an additional inspection. The inspections at a minimum shall include the inspection of the: (a) climbing harness buckle to insure that it is "doubled-back", (b) the figure eight tie-in knot is properly tied; (c) the belayer's carabiner is properly locked; and, (d) the rope is properly routed through the belay device and carabiner.
13. All participants, including all adults, at all times while climbing/rappelling is occurring in the climbing area shall wear approved climbing helmets with chin straps secured.
14. In the event of a serious climbing accident a climbing director/instructor shall: (a) perform any rescue and first aid which shall become necessary to preserve the life of the person involved in the climbing accident; (b) as soon as practicable notify the Council representative of the emergency condition and follow any instructions of the Council representative; (c) to the extent possible or advisable, seek approval for treatment from the injured person's medical provider; (d) notify the parent/legal guardian or designee of the injury and condition of the injured; and, (e) to the extent possible, leave all equipment at the site and in the position when the emergency occurred.
15. The climbing/rappelling site shall be inspected twice each year by a certified climbing director who shall note such inspection in a report to the Council Executive who shall cause a copy to be placed in the Climbing Equipment Log.