



INDIAN NATIONS COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



# Standard Operating Procedures for Natural Rock Areas On Council Property

(as of 01/01/2018)

**This manual covers the following site(s) for use by Climbing Instructors serving Unit events:**

- Natural Limestone Rock Bluff at Cherokee Nation Scout Reservation (CNSR)
  - A CNSR Climbing Guide Book is also available for use by Instructors that provides climbing route details and pictures for planning purposes.

## **ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are provided to support the Lead and assisting Instructors on hand for the event by providing information to be used during a climbing event. Additional information and BSA policies from NCAP covering camp use, first aid, etc. as referenced during training will also apply but may not be specifically identified or described herein.

Instructors should also recall that:

- Current Council Climbing Policies apply and should be known by Instructors on hand and should be maintained during event.
  - From Council Policy: “Regardless of their level of training, every Climbing Instructor within the climbing site during an event is expected to maintain safe climbing conditions at all times and work within their personal capabilities and experience.”
- The most current edition of Belay On is the document for reference for climbing activities within the BSA program.
- Climb On Safely provides awareness and identifies requirements for a Unit based climbing activity – regardless of location. Please assure that Qualified Supervision is on hand to assist Instructors in the activity.

## **RESERVATION and USE of Council Property**

A site reservation form shall always be used and approved by the COPE and Climbing Program Manager or Climbing Committee Chair PRIOR TO using any council climbing site referenced below to assure that instructors are identified, are of proper training levels and provide sufficient staffing.

### **Unit Check In**

Before starting activities or visiting climbing site, check in with Council Ranger on site.

The Lead Instructor must present a copy of the approved reservation form with photo ID to Ranger for access to equipment and/or any climbing site.

### **Equipment Check Out and Return**

#### **Check Out:**

Ranger will provide direction to equipment and climbing area.

Registration will show what site is reserved for use and if allowed to check out equipment or ropes.

If using Council gear, the Preuse inspection form shall be completed during check out process.

Use Inventory sheet for site and pull gear – ranger confirms (form needed?)

#### **Check In and event close out:**

At the end of usage:

1. Collect all equipment, rope and gear and return to storage locker.
2. Complete Council Preuse form showing return of gear.
3. Contact Ranger to confirm the return of all Council equipment and gear in good condition.
4. Fill in all log books (rope, helmet or harness) with information needed.

### **Event Staffing:**

A Lead Instructor is required and shall be a current registered scouter having completed either Climbing Instructor Level 2, National Camp School Climbing Director or other BSA recognized climbing training. A Level 2 ACS or COPE Instructor of any level is not qualified to act as Lead Instructor in natural rock areas. At least one additional trained Climbing Instructor of any level must be present to use site.

From Climb On Safely, the Lead Instructor shall assure that Qualified Supervision is also be present in proper ratios for the group on hand.

### **General Operating Information**

1. All BSA COPE & Climbing requirements, current Council policy, prior training and personal experience shall govern activities.
2. At least one adult at the activity site must have current training in CPR and first aid or Wilderness First Aid during all activities.
3. A First Aid Kit shall be present at activity site – Unit supplied for unit based activities.
4. Pre-use inspections are performed at all sites and on equipment to be used prior to starting activities. As needed, critical maintenance items are documented, promptly addressed and remediation is documented with Ranger prior to starting activities. In the event that repairs are not feasible, the affected site, element or component will be avoided and / or an alternate used.
5. Weather and environmental conditions shall be monitored continuously during the activities and appropriate actions, including the termination of the event, shall be taken to keep participants and instructors safe.
6. Please practice Leave No Trace principles - DO NOT remove trees or other limbs of any size in climbing or landing areas, grasses and loose material are OK to clean up to prevent from falling off edge. Please report any concerns or improvement ideas to Climbing Chair or CCPM for consideration.
7. Personal helmets and harnesses are allowed only after inspection and approval by the Lead Instructor present.
8. Anyone over shoulder height from the ground shall be On Belay or an independent safety tether. No one, including instructors, shall be functioning in an unsafe manner.
9. Spotting climbers is always a best practice and should be used during activities. Participants should be trained in proper spotting techniques prior to and perform this function during activities.
10. Proper techniques for belaying shall be explained to participants and monitored continuously by Instructors if the Lead Instructor allows this activity to be performed by participants.

### **Safety Orientation for Participants:**

Prior to setting up or starting activities, Instructors will conduct a safety orientation with all participants explaining the following:

- There are inherent risks of the activities – safety is for everyone and monitored by all so watch each other and the instructors.
- A red zone is identified for all - instructors, supervisors and participants.
  - No one, including an observer, is allowed in a red zone without a helmet properly fitted.
- Review challenge by choice and present activities that all will enjoy.
- Review proper fit of harness. “Red is dead.” If anyone sees red on a harness buckle being used in the red zone, the problem should be rectified immediately.
- “ROCK!” is a general term yelled whenever anything besides a rope is dropped or knocked off.

- “ROPE” is called when needed.
- Never sit or place anything near rock ledges; it can fall and injure someone below.
- Keep ALL equipment out of dirt at all times and avoid stepping on rope or other soft goods. If Council owned equipment or gear needs to be cleaned up after use, the Lead Instructor shall be responsible for assuring everything is cleaned properly and dried as needed prior to return to Ranger and storage.

## **Emergency and Incident Reporting:**

### **CLIMBING - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Emergencies occur anytime, anywhere. No one is ever free from the presence of a possible problem. The most important mental challenge in the event of an emergency and the most helpful to the situation is also the most difficult. You must remain calm! In the event of an emergency:

- Lead Instructor shall direct or perform the rescue with safety in mind, getting participant and any instructors to the ground safely.
- Dial 911 and administer First Aid / CPR as needed or determined by individual(s) on hand.
- Inform the Camp Ranger immediately for additional assistance and further coordination.
- Remove all participants from the area that are not directly involved in the situation.

### **REPORTING**

An adult present shall have all persons present immediately write down their own independent observations of the event.

Do not disassemble any equipment associated with the accident.

A council representative will document the set up and disassemble gear

As directed by a Council representative, fill out the appropriate incident form(s) and follow directions on the incident forms.

Deliver form(s) to the appropriate Council leadership.

# **ANCHORS in NATURAL CLIMBING AREAS**

The anchors at CNSR have been constructed or identified for use as a primary, master anchor point. If you desire or feel that a back-up is needed, please include in your set up; nothing prevents you from being more cautious or conservative in your efforts.

When using anchors, please remember E.A.R.N.E.S.T. - Equalized, Angles, Redundant, No Extension, Strong, Timely.

Two pipe anchors are installed at the Legacy Rappel site (Area 3) for use as master anchorage points for rappel activities (2 separate lanes available). Please visually inspect pipe segments to assure they are not damaged prior to use.

For Tree Anchors:

- Anchor Trees are identified by Tree Tags.
- Any tree used as an anchor must be inspected by Lead Instructor prior to use.
  - From Belay On, trees should be healthy, strongly rooted, 6" minimum diameter to be considered as a master anchor - select accordingly and back up as needed.
  - Keep our trees healthy - wrap any tree used as an anchor with a padding material (towel, mat, etc.); tensionless wraps or webbing slings can damage bark.

Ground anchors for a belayer at the bottom of a climb are recommended but the Instructors on hand will determine if, where and how they shall be constructed and used. Natural terrain features may not always allow the best ground belay anchor being out of a fall or bounce zone.

At present, no anchors constructed using static or dynamic climbing protection (cams, hexs, nuts, etc.) should be used as a master anchor for top rope climbing or rappelling purposes.

**NO ONE SHALL INSTALL ANY BOLTS ON COUNCIL PROPERTY.**

## **SET UP / OPERATIONS / TAKE DOWN**

- The Lead Instructor shall have final say on any and all details about climbing activity.
- As an Instructor, you shall determine all details associated with event planning, site selection, equipment and staffing for your event.
- Keep a safe distance from edges and always use safety line(s) attached to sturdy anchor points (trees or posts) during set up and activities.
- Always complete C>H>E>C>K> prior to starting belay commands.



# NATURAL ROCK CLIMBING AREAS

**ALL SITES ARE APPROVED FOR CLIMBING OR RAPELLING ACTIVITIES AS NOTED.**

The natural rock wall is located along the Barren Fork River as shown below. There is approximately 800' of Limestone bluff with heights ranging from 20-45' and two separate bouldering areas. There are 6 areas identified below that have top anchors for use but as a Lead Instructor, you determine where and how you want to set up and manage the activity.



**Bouldering Area:** Bouldering activities are available along the entire length of the climbing wall however there is a specific area located at the west end of the bluff with tunnels, overhangs, slabs and roof sections for bouldering.

- Activities should be managed by a Climbing Instructor Level 1 or better.
- Climbing and Rappelling in this area is discouraged.
- A climber should stay below their shoulder height when bouldering.
- Always use spotter(s) and watch for overhead activities that may drop rocks or other debris onto people below.
- Be mindful of others using roped climbing / rappelling areas and wait to cross through or use rock for bouldering.

#### **AREA 1: WEST END**

Gated Entrance marked with #1

Primary Activity:	Climbing / Rappelling
Height:	15-25 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Cedar Trees as marked.

#### **AREA 2: MOTHER NATURE**

Gated Entrance marked with #2

Primary activity:	Climbing / Rappelling
Height:	25 – 30 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Cedar Trees just outside fence as marked.

#### **AREA 3: LEGACY RAPPEL**

Gated Entrance marked with #3

Primary activity:	Rappelling ONLY
Height:	40 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Pipe Anchors (A/B) for use.

#### **AREA 4: COOL WAVES**

No Gate – access from Gate 5

Primary activity:	Climbing / Rappelling
Height:	30-40 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Cedar Tree just outside of fenced area as marked.

#### **SITE 5: THE RAVINE**

Gated Entrance

Primary activity:	Climbing / Rappelling
Height:	25 -35 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Multiple tree options for primary and redirect needs as marked.

#### **SITE 6: HIGH CORNER**

Gated Entrance

Primary activity:	Climbing / Rappelling
Height:	15-25 feet
Anchor(s) available:	Large Oak Tree as marked.