

Circle Ten Council Climbing & Rappelling Policy

The Circle Ten Council Climbing and Rappelling Policy Standards meet or exceed the National BSA Policies in effect January 1 2013. The following policies are mandatory for the conduct of all climbing and/or rappelling programs or events by Circle Ten Council, district and unit activities at any Circle Ten Council properties and off-council properties.

Participants shall be in compliance with the applicable Circle Ten Council Policy, National Standards, and the BSA Climb On Safely and Topping Out Climbing/Rappelling publications. In the case of conflict between the listed applicable publications, the more conservative rule shall apply. The camp ranger (or his designee) or a tower level II instructor may direct operations to cease if these standards are not followed.

During unit activities, the director or instructor must be in compliance with the standards set by the BSA Climb on Safely publication and have the documentation with him during the activity. The leader(s) must brief everyone as to what is to be accomplished and review proper voice commands before entering the climbing activity area. Persons with serious medical problems should have approval from a physician to participate and provide that information to the head instructor, and an emergency communication plan must be in place for every activity.

Rappelling requires supervision by at least one qualified instructor and two assistants. Climbing requires supervision by at least one qualified instructor and one assistant. Only one participant is permitted to climb or rappel on a route at a time, and each participant must be observed throughout the entire event by at least one trained leader. Activities in the rock area will not be conducted when the surface is wet.

Horseplay should never be encouraged, permitted, or tolerated while the program is being conducted. No speedy or bounding descent that places a strain on the anchors, the rope, and/or the belayer will be used, nor will arm, body, Australian, or assault face-first rappelling be taught or used. A rappeller will not jump from the top edge in an assault or emergency type of rappel.

All climbing and rappelling processed should follow current BSA standards. When climbing, a top rope belay **MUST** be used. When rappelling, a top belay or firemen's belay may be used.

Every person must wear a UIAA, CEN, or ASTM approved rock-climbing helmet with the chin strap secured when rappelling, climbing, belaying, or when within the designated safety area. When using a camp climbing wall or tower or any time when the use of camp equipment is furnished as required by national standards, participants may not use personal equipment. The only exception is that a person may use a personal helmet or harness if that item is (a) UIAA, CEN, or ASTM approved and designed for climbing, and; (b) Inspected and approved by the on-site climbing director or instructor prior to that activity.

Use of personal hardware is not permitted when using the Climbing Tower at Camp Trevor Rees-Jones.

All Circle Ten Council policies are subject to change with the issuance of new National Standards. The National Standards should be reviewed for current acceptable processes.

This policy may be changed at any time by the Circle Ten Council COPE & Climbing Committee or Program Manager.