

Climbing



Introduction

Your challenge as a summer camp merit badge counselor is to see that the Scouts who attend your session have the best opportunity to learn about canoeing. It is important that they have a positive experience. This lesson plan is designed to help you plan a logical, high-quality program. You may have to use a slightly different approach in presenting the material based on your camp resources and facilities.

Resources

Be sure to utilize all the resources available to you. Many local organizations can provide you with a variety of materials and support to help you deliver the Climbing merit badge program to Scouts. A natural site or facility such as a climbing tower or wall may be used for this merit badge.

DAY	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
1	Greet Scouts	A. Examine all merit badge cards for the Scoutmaster's signature. Make a roster of the Scouts.
	Review Demonstrate	B. Review the points of Climb On Safely. Demonstrate different climbing classifications, pointing out the classifications for the site being used (requirement 4a).
	Discuss	C. Have Scouts evaluate the safety of the climbing area considering weather, visibility, condition of the climbing surface, and environmental hazards (requirement 4c), and how they would summon help in case of an emergency (requirement 4d).
	Demonstrate	D. Show Scouts the type of rope acceptable for climbing and rappelling, and have them inspect the ropes for wear or damage (requirements 6a and 6b).
	Discuss	E. Have Scouts tell how to prevent a rope from being damaged (requirement 6c) and explain when and how a rope should be retired (requirement 6d).
	Demonstrate	F. Show Scouts how to properly coil a rope (requirement 6e).
2	Demonstrate	A. Show Scouts how to tie climbing knots (requirements 7a–d). Let them practice tying each knot.
	Demonstrate	B. Show Scouts several different types of climbing harnesses and let them put one on (requirement 8).
	Discuss	C. Discuss appropriate clothing, footwear, and headgear for climbing and rappelling (requirement 3). Tell Scouts to attend tomorrow's session dressed appropriately.

	Demonstrate	A.	Demonstrate proper belaying techniques and let Scouts practice belaying someone on level ground. Instruct the person being belayed to randomly put a hard jerk on the rope to test the belayer. Also demonstrate proper climbing techniques on a climbing face.
	Climbing	B.	Have Scouts climb a rock face or climbing wall one at a time while another counselor demonstrates proper belaying techniques and using verbal signals. Coach Scouts on how to improve their techniques. Let each Scout climb three times using different routes (requirement 10b).
	Belaying	C.	After Scouts have observed a counselor belaying, let them belay one at a time with the counselor providing a backup belay. Let each Scout belay three different climbers (requirement 9b).
4	Rappelling	A.	After Scouts have observed rappelling, let them try it one at a time. Coach them on how to improve their technique and practice verbal signals. Let other Scouts belay the rappellers. At least one counselor should observe the belayer and another should observe the rappeller. A third adult may be needed to supervise the other Scouts. Let each Scout rappel three routes (requirement 11c).
	Belaying	B.	Let each Scout belay three different rappellers (requirement 9c).
5	Demonstrate	A.	Demonstrate ways to store rope, hardware, and other climbing gear (requirement 12).
	Note	B.	Inform the Scoutmaster of any Scout who might not complete the badge.
6	Wrap up	A.	Wrap up all the requirements. Let Scouts finish any climbing, belaying, or rappelling requirements. Prepare the merit badge cards for the proper signatures. If any Scout does not complete all the requirements, make sure that his records properly indicate the requirements that he has completed and that the Scout knows why he did not complete the badge requirements.
		B.	Submit necessary records to the camp program director.