

CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING PROGRAM

APPLICATION PACKET

FOR

MCGIMSEY SCOUT PARK

AND

BEAR CREEK SCOUT RESERVATION

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Reservations may be made by calling the Scout Service Center at 210-341-8611, faxing the Application Form to 210-341-7641, or mailing it to Alamo Area Council, 2226 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, TX 78213. Each group should submit one Application Form to the Council Office with a \$25 non-refundable deposit with the remaining balance due no later than one week before the scheduled experience; **fee payment** is necessary to confirm a date. Each participant should receive the briefing in the information sheet, and **each** participant should fill out a **Health History and Consent Form** and bring it to the course the day of the activity. Permission is granted to duplicate and distribute copies of these forms to prospective group members as needed.

CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Young people today seek challenges. Climbing and rappelling offer them worthy opportunities to learn new skills, test themselves, and have a terrific time. It's hard to top the satisfaction of climbing a rock face and rappelling down a steep pitch.

This program is designed to introduce the basics of climbing and rappelling, thus the participants will not learn enough or gain sufficient experience to start climbing on their own. The day's activities will offer a taste of a great sport, but will in no way prepare participants to try rappelling or rock climbing without qualified supervision.

All participants are expected to respect the experiences of others and to have a positive mental attitude throughout the activities. No one is asked to do more than he is willing to undertake, but each is challenged to do as much as he can, setting and striving toward his own goals and contributing to the group objectives.

Safety

Safety is foremost in all activities – emotional as well as physical safety. As participants encounter the various challenges, they may experience a variety of fears, such as the fear of heights, the fear of getting hurt, or of embarrassment. Instructors will encourage participants to examine the source and reasonableness of these fears. As well, instructors will promote an atmosphere in which participants feel safe enough to challenge their self-imposed limitations. Thus, participants learn to respect and encounter fear in ways that allow personal growth.

Instructors teach safety before performing any activity. All group members will learn belaying techniques and use them to protect their member/climber against falls. The instructor will also provide an overview of equipment, belaying systems, spotting techniques used while bouldering (all systems have back-ups), verbal signals, and climbing and rappelling methods. Trained professionals regularly inspect the course and the hardware. All instructors receive training in the physical and emotional dynamics of the activity, and in the safety and emergency procedures of the course.

Participants

All members of scout unit groups must be currently registered. The climbing and rappelling activity is for all adults as well. Your group should consist of at least 8 and not more than 15 members.

Groups of adults are encouraged, such as unit or district committees. Non-scout and corporate groups are also welcome.

Application

Climbing and Rappelling programs are scheduled by application through the Alamo Area Council, BSA office at 2226 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, Texas 78213, phone 210-341-8611. Applications are taken on first-come, first-served basis. Tentative reservations are taken by phone. The appropriate application form must be received and the registration fee paid no later than two weeks before the scheduled date to confirm the reservation. Climbing and Rappelling Program Application packages with appropriate information and forms are available from the council office.

During the two weeks before your scheduled date, an instructor will contact your adult group member to discuss objectives and final plans.

Health

All participants must be in good health and submit a signed Climbing and Rappelling *Medical History/ Consent* Form. These forms are supplied as a part of your Climbing and Rappelling Application Package. If the scout unit has current BSA camp physical forms or the health record on the back of the individual BSA registration form, these should be brought to the course on the day of the activity. For participants under 18, a parent or guardian must sign the medical form.

Dress

Dress appropriately for the season and for physical activity. Dress in removable layers in cooler weather. Recommended shoes are athletic or walking shoes, or lightweight hiking boots. Minimize pocket items, jewelry, watches, and large belts or buckles, as they must be removed on the course. Sunscreen should be used in hot weather. Retaining bands for prescription glasses should be used. In warm weather, insect repellent is wise to protect against chiggers. In wet weather the use of rain gear may make the difference in continuing the experience or stopping.

Food

Normal one-day experiences need to provide for lunch. It is requested that each group provide lunch for themselves and two instructors. (They are highly trained, unpaid volunteers who give their time.) Food may be brought from home to the site, or a non-participating adult may go out to purchase sandwiches, pizza, or burgers at nearby commercial establishments. Travel to a commercial establishment by the whole group is not recommended because of the time consumed. For the same reason, cooking should not be planned during the lunch break. Lunch break is approximately one hour.

Only drinking water and restroom facilities are provided at the site. We recommend each participant bring his own cup, water bottle, or canteen; you may bring your own drink flavoring, if desired. Soft drinks are acceptable for lunch, but not recommended for re-hydration/refreshment. Bring a plastic bag to collect and remove your garbage at the end of the day. There are no garbage receptacles because of the animals in the park.

ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED ON SCOUT PROPERTY AND SMOKING IS PROHIBITED ON THE CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING COURSE. (Our trails are covered with wood mulch.)

Weather

Climbing and Rappelling activities can be performed in most mild weather conditions. In the event of extremes, such as heavy rain, lightning, freezing temperatures, or announced weather alerts, activities will be discontinued or not started. The decision of the instructor will be final on this matter. Where possible, activities will be rescheduled; otherwise, they will be refunded, in full or in part.

Camping Facilities

Camping sites are available for overnight stays. Separate arrangements should be made through the Scout Service Center for camping at McGimsey Scout Park or Bear Creek Scout Reservation in conjunction with your Climbing and Rappelling experience.

Time

Most one-day Climbing and Rappelling programs are scheduled on Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. Participants are discouraged from leaving and returning to the site during daytime hours; the activities are cumulative and parts should not be missed. The entire group should be on site before the starting time so that full benefit of the day may be enjoyed.

Arrival Instructions

The McGimsey Park Climbing and Rappelling Program is located at 2226 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, Texas. Entrance is off of Wedgewood Lane on the west side of the park. Go into the park at the park entrance, go past the ranger's house on your right. Take the first right (the ranger's office is on the left) parking under the big trees to your left. An instructor will be there to meet you and lead you to the course. Don't be late; you'll be cutting into your own fun! HAVE A GOOD DAY!!!

CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FEES

Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

The following fees are required for group participation in the Alamo Area Council, B.S.A. Climbing and Rappelling activity. A group is 8 to 15 participants.

One Day Courses

SCOUT UNITS

Registered Boy Scout Troop, Venture Crew, or Explorer Post Groups. All participants must be currently registered in B.S.A.

\$125.00 per group

SCOUT RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

These include organizations that sponsor scout units and United Way member organizations (non-profit). All participants must be active members of the organizations.

\$150.00 per group

NON-SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that do not qualify as scout related. This also includes groups which have no particular affiliation. It does not include corporate groups.

\$200.00 per group plus \$7 per person

Other programs are available by special arrangements. Inquire through the Council Office, the Climbing Director, or Climbing Committee. Camporships are available upon request under certain circumstances, please inquire at the Council Office.

CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING GROUP APPLICATION
Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Please Print or Type all entries:

Unit/Organization: _____ Application Date: _____

Scouting Sponsor Organization: _____

Address: _____

Unit/Organization Leader (Adult): _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Participating Leader: _____ Position: _____

Requested Date for Climbing and Rappelling Program experience:

(1st) _____

(2nd) _____

(3rd) _____

Number of groups: (a group is 8 to 15 persons): _____

Number of participants who have climbing/rappelling experience: _____

Number of participants: Total _____ Males _____ Females _____ Adults _____

LIST NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS ON BACK OF THIS SHEET.

Total fees paid: \$ _____

XX

Council Use Only

Type of group: Scout: _____ Related/United Way: _____ Non-Scout: _____

Date confirmed: _____ Fees Received: _____