

## **Orange County Council Climbing and Rappelling Tower General Policies and Guidelines FAQ**

The Ventura County Council Climbing and Rappelling Tower located at Camp Three Falls features a 57 foot 3 sided tower. The tower has both a 28-foot and 57 foot-climbing wall with rappelling from both the 28-foot level and the 57-foot level. The 57-foot level has a 20-foot free rappel at the upper part of the tower. The tower climbing walls offers all levels of experience levels including overhangs. The facility is available to all Scout units both within and outside the Ventura County Council. See fee schedule below for Tower usage fees.

### **Who can use the Climbing and Rappelling Tower?**

- All Cub Scouts ages 7 to 8 can climb but not rappel or belay.
- All Webelos ages 9 to 10 can climb and rappel but not belay.
- All Boy Scouts can climb, rappel, and belay.
- All adults can climb, rappel, and belay.

### **What is required to use the Climbing and rappelling Tower?**

- At least one adult from the unit using the tower must be Climb On Safely trained, which is a 45 minute review of climbing polices and procedures (see details below)
- A usage permit requesting the facility must submitted at least six (6) weeks in advance to the OCC Service Center.
- At least two (2) trained BSA Climbing Instructors must be present to open and operate the tower.

### **Where do I find a Trained BSA Climbing Instructor?**

- An up-to-date list of BSA Climbing Instructors is available on the Council Web page, at the Council Service Center, with any of the Council Climbing Directors listed at the bottom of this page, and with the Camp Three Falls Ranger.

### **What do we need to bring?**

- Everyone should wear a sturdy pair of tennis shoes or boots that lace up tightly.
- Shorts or loose fitting pants and a shirt that tucks in are required.
- A fee should be paid in advance. Provide a copy of the receipt.
- Personal climbing gear (helmet, harness, and climbing shoes) will only be permitted after being inspected by an onsite instructor.

### **Can we bring our own climbing equipment?**

- You are permitted to bring your personal harness, helmet, or climbing shoes.
- All personal equipment must have a CE or UIAA certification marking and be no more than four (4) years old.
- The on-site Climbing Instructor has the final say if the personal equipment may be used.
- No other personal or group equipment is permitted.

### **Can we earn the Climbing Merit Badge?**

- Yes, all the climbing Merit Badge requirements can be fulfilled at the Climbing Facility.
- A unit would need most of a full day to complete the major requirements.
- Minor requirements could be completed at a Unit meeting or on Friday or Saturday night if the unit is camping at 3 falls.

**What does it take to become a BSA Climbing Instructor?**

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must complete a 3-day training course.
- You must operate the Tower facility on two (2) separate occasions under the supervision of a Climbing Director
- You must have a valid CPR and First Aid card.
- Your Climbing Instructor card lasts for two (2) years.
- You must actively use and operate the Tower Facility within the last 12 months and attend at least one (1) Climbing Committee Meeting, or your training card expires.

**What if I got my Climbing Instructors Card outside of BSA?**

- You must show proof of your certification to a OCC Climbing Director.
- You must work attend a tower training workshop to review the anchor systems, emergency plan, and documentation process with a OCC Climbing Director before being granted rights to the tower.

**What does it take to get Climb On Safely?**

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must complete a 45-minute training course put on at Roundtable or other Council training session where it is being offered.
- One adult per ten (10) boys accompanying the unit must be Climb On Safely trained.