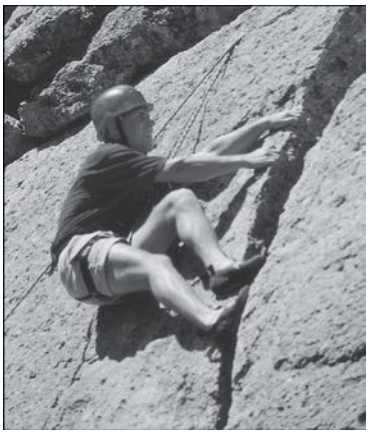
GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Roundtable Safety Spotlight
Climbing, Rappelling and Technical Canyoneering



Young people today seek challenges. Climbing, rappelling and technical canyoneering offer them worthy opportunities to learn new skills, test themselves and have a terrific time. It is hard to top the satisfaction of climbing a rock face, rappelling down a steep pitch or navigating a 75 foot rappel in the confines of a narrow canyon only 4 feet wide and a thousand feet below the rim of a slick rock canyon. There are inherent risks to each of these activities. For this reason the Boy Scouts of America and the Great Salt Lake Council have developed specific policies to help keep participants safe during these activities. That is why we want the leaders and youth of our council to understand the principles of "Know Risk… not No Risk!"

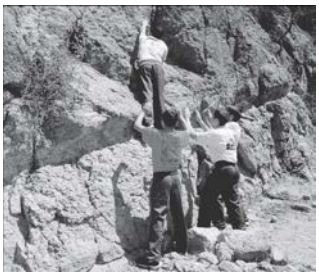
The council offers climbing activities at Bear Lake Aquatics Base, East Fork of the Bear and Camp Steiner. Registration for these camps can be done through the council web page: www.saltlakescouts.org.

The following must be adhered to for all <u>unit</u> climbing, rappelling and technical canyoneering activities.

1. Units must file and obtain an approved council Tour Plan that clearly states what the activity is prior to the activity.
2. All participants must fill out the Annual Health and Medical and Parental Informed Consent Agreement for Climbing/Rappelling Activities forms.
3. Units must have minimum of two qualified instructors.
   a. Climbing and Rappelling: (One BSA Climbing Director or Lead Climbing Instructor **and** one other BSA Climbing Director, Lead Climbing Instructor or Climbing Instructor)
   b. Technical Canyoneering: (One GSLC Canyon Leader **and** one other BSA Climbing Director, Lead Climbing Instructor or Climbing Instructor)
4. The ratio of instructors to participants (Scouts, Scoutmasters etc.) is 1:6 with a minimum of two instructors (see #3 above).
5. One person on site must have a minimum of CPR and basic first aid certification. If emergency evacuation is more then 30 minutes by ground, it is required that an instructor or unit leader be trained to a minimum level of wilderness first aid (16 hours) and be present during the activity.
6. For all technical canyoneering, one person must have minimum level of wilderness first aid (16 hours) and be present during the activity.
7. All participants must wear UIAA, CEN or ASTM approved rock-climbing helmet with chinstrap.

BSA Climbing Instructor Course:
The council offers climbing instructor courses both in the spring (April 4, 6-7, 2012) and fall (October 10, 12-13, 2012) of each year. Information can be found at the council web page under the "training" link.

Climb On Safely:
It is recommended that all Scout leaders complete the online *Climb On Safely* course found at www.myscouting.org. All Scout leaders should commit to following the 8 points of *Climb On Safely* that are:



Qualified Supervision
Qualified Instructors
Physical Fitness
Safe Area
Equipment
Planning
Environmental Conditions
Discipline

Resources:
Topping Out, A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual
Climb On Safely
The Great Salt Lake Unit Climbing and Rappelling Policy (Found under the "Forms and Materials" link on the Council web page)
The Great Salt Lake Unit Canyoneering Policy (Found under the "Forms and Materials" link on the Council web page)