

West Central Florida Council

Climbing and Rappelling Facility

General Policies and Guidelines FAQ

The West Central Florida Council Climbing and Rappelling Facility located at Sand Hill Scout Reservation features a 35' rappelling structure, a 50' artificial climbing wall, and a 1000 ft² training center. The rappelling structure offers three different floors for all experience levels. The artificial climbing wall offers 2340 ft² of climbing surface with challenges from beginner to expert. The facility is available to all Scout units both within and outside West Central Florida Council.

❑ **Who can use the Climbing and Rappelling Facility?**

- 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 Facility?**

- At least one adult from the unit using the facility must be Climb On Safely certified which is a 45 minute review of climbing policies and procedures (see details below)
- A usage permit requesting the facility must be submitted at least two weeks in advance to the WCFC Council Service Center
- At least two WCFC Certified Climbing Instructors must be present to open and operate the climbing wall or rappelling tower; 3-4 instructors is better if you want to operate the climbing wall and rappelling towers at the same time
- Multiple units may sign up for the Climbing and Rappelling Facility on the same weekend

❑ **Where do I find a Certified Climbing Instructor?**

- A up-to-date list of Certified Climbing Instructors is available on the Council web page www.wcfbsa.org, the Sand Hill web page www.SandHillScoutReservation.com, at the Council Service Center, with any of the Council Climbing Directors, with the Sand Hill Ranger, or with the Camping Committee Chairman

❑ **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 of \$3 per person for in Council units will be collected at the facility
- A fee of \$5 per person for out of Council units will be collected at the facility
- Bring sufficient water for the group since we do not have water at the Climbing and Rappelling Facility

❑ **How many units or people can use the Climbing and Rappelling Facility?**

- We can harness up 50 kids at a time; we handle 80+ kids at one time during summer camp without a problem
- Multiple units can share the facility at any one time; we have more than enough equipment
- To run the facility at full capacity, you will want about 8 Certified Climbing Instructors

❑ **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 seven 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

❑ **How much time do we need?**

- Plan for 4 hours to let everyone in a 10 person group to get a chance to both climb and rappel a few times
- Plan for more time if the group gets larger or you want to work on the merit badge

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

- Yes, all the Climbing Merit Badge requirements can be fulfilled at the Climbing and Rappelling Facility
- A unit would need most of a Saturday to complete the major requirements
- Minor requirements could be completed at a Unit meeting or on Friday night if camping at Sand Hill Scout Reservation

❑ **What does it take to become a Certified Climbing Instructor?**

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must complete a 12 hour training course
- You must operate the facility on two separate occasions under the supervision of a Climbing Director
- You must have CPR and First Aid training cards
- Your certification lasts for two years maximum
- You must actively use and operate the Facility within the last 12 months or your certification expires

❑ **What if I got my Climbing Instructor Certification outside of WCFC?**

- You must show proof of your certification to a WCFC Climbing Director

- You must spend a couple hours reviewing the facilities anchor systems, emergency plan, and documentation process with a WCFC Climbing Director before being granted rights to the towers

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

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must complete a 45 minute training course put on at Roundtable or other Council events
- One adult accompanying the unit must be Climb On Safely trained Contact the West Central Florida Council service center to reserve the Climbing and Rappelling Facility