

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

Table on contents

INTRODUCTION -----	2
PURPOSE-----	2
WHAT IS THE “C.O.P.E.” PROGRAM?-----	3
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN COPE?-----	3
WHAT IS THE CLIMBING PROGRAM? -----	4
WHAT IS “BOULDERING”?-----	5
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS COPE/CLIMBING PROGRAMS? -----	6
What Elements are available at Camp Carrier for COPE?-----	7
What Programs are Available? -----	7
Supervision and Training Requirements -----	9
COPE and Climbing Program Staff Member Qualifications and Training -----	9
COPE and Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements -----	10
Facility Procedures and Policies-----	11
HOW DO I SCHEDULE MY GROUP?-----	12
SAFETY REGULATIONS-----	13
Supervision Responsibilities and Unit Assistance -----	14

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

The Chickasaw Council has COPE and climbing facilities hosted at Camp Currier in Eudora, MS. and Kia Kima Scout Reservation in Hardy, AR. These facilities offer scouts the opportunity to experience the thrill of climbing and to challenge themselves on the COPE course. The course at Kia Kima is available during council camping events while those at Currier are available for use year round under the guidelines listed below.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to describe the COPE and Climbing facilities and programs available through the Chickasaw Council. Units conducting climbing programs off Chickasaw Council property must ensure they follow all applicable policies for Climb on Safely and BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.

All statements contained herein do not supersede, alter, or augment the policies and procedures set forth by the BSA in any way shape or form. Please refer to the current BSA publications regarding COPE, Climbing, Safety and Training to get the latest and correct information at all times.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

WHAT IS THE “C.O.P.E.” PROGRAM?

C.O.P.E. is short for “**C**hallenging **O**utdoor **P**ersonal **E**xperience”. It is a set of group initiative games with low and high course activities. Some of the activities involve a group challenge, while others test individual skills and agility; only a few require athletic strength. Participants climb, swing, balance, jump, and think of solutions to a variety of activities. Most do much more than they thought they could!

The objectives of COPE are to develop leadership, problem solving, self-esteem, communication, trust, decision making, and teamwork with a heavy dose of FUN. Your team should select a few of these goals for your COPE experience. A successful COPE experience will build a strong bond among members of the team. COPE initiatives are based on noncompetitive “New Games” where everyone is a winner. Setting and achieving goals are the preferred measures of success rather than time or score. As much emphasis is placed upon the mental experience in COPE as is the physical.

The outcome of most initiatives is discussed by the team to learn from the experience, to affirm positive interactions, and to evaluate the process toward goals. The COPE program provides an opportunity for every participant to achieve successful as an individual and as a member of a team. All participants are expected to respect the experience of others and to have a positive mental attitude throughout the activities. No one is asked to do more than he or she is willing to undertake; however, each is challenged to do as much as he or she can, setting and striving toward their own goals, and contributing to the team objectives.

COPE is NOT just games. Processing (guided discussion) of the experience of each element, what was learned, what could be done better, and what goals were achieved are perhaps more important than the activity. Games and low elements are usually more constructive than high elements and are not discounted. COPE is NOT an obstacle course or a physical skill eliminator. There are parts of COPE for almost everyone.

The program utilizes a series of skill developing techniques and challenges from three course levels: • Initiatives • Low Elements • High Elements During two days, a team of eight members or more, plus at least two highly trained facilitators begin with communication skill development. From there, participants are guided through the program in a progression to more and more challenging exercises that utilize climbing skills, balance, and concentration. By completion of the high elements, the team members achieve a heightened sense of trust, self-confidence, personal achievement, a new appreciation from teammates, and the power of working together. All instruction is by Boy Scouts of America C.O.P.E. certified Level II instructors and appropriate facilitators.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN COPE?

Co-ed youth who are 13 years of age and adults may participate in C.O.P.E. The participant’s level of maturity and physical ability should always be taken into account in determining anyone’s involvement in COPE. (See table “COPE and Climbing Program Staff Member Qualifications and Training” for further details.)

For Scout units, all members must be currently registered. Your team should consist of no less than eight and no more than sixteen members. For Troops and Venture Crews, the COPE activities are

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

enticing to adults as well as the Scouts. Although adults are not prevented from participating with the youth on the team, leaders and COPE facilitators should closely evaluate what objectives are being sought by the experience and what relationship exists between the youths and adults. Is adult leadership and authority at risk if the adult's fears or frailties are exposed? Can the adult participate in the group without assuming leadership or authority? In cases where adults do participate with their youth, the COPE facilitator may, in some activities, "handicap" the adult to limit his/her participation or encourage greater youth contribution. Teams of all adults are encouraged, such as unit or district committees.

Non-BSA organizations or groups are permitted to use the council's COPE and climbing facilities only with a hold harmless agreement, facility-use agreement, and certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$2 million. Non-BSA organizations or groups are permitted to use the COPE course and equipment ONLY while under the direction of council program staff as referenced in the "Staff Qualifications and Training" section of these standards.

WHAT IS THE CLIMBING PROGRAM?

Climbing Merit Badge Program takes learning and advancements to new heights! Climbing and rappelling on our towers or on real rock cliffs is a fun and exciting way to challenge Scouts and allow them the opportunity to advance themselves in Scouting. Climbing is not a sport that requires tremendous muscular strength; it demands mental toughness and the willingness to practice a hard to master set of skills. The adventure of climbing can also provide a new way to enjoy the outdoors.

Our goal with this program is to turn scouts on to a life time sport. This course gets you up on the rock and teaches you the correct techniques. You will learn what "on belay" means and gain a respect for the proper use of equipment & the environment. The program will begin with "Ground School," a review of your knots, climbing etiquette, safety protocols, and a discussion of expectations for the day.

Upon arrival at the tower or natural rocks, we will begin by setting up rappels and a top rope site. This setup will ensure that all participants are challenged (and tired out) by the end of the program.

During the course of the program, you could complete all of the climbing merit badge requirements. The climbing program will focus on providing Scouts the opportunity to complete their climbs, rappels and belays for the merit badge. Rope care, verbal commands, knots and the teamwork aspect of enjoying a safe climbing experience are reinforced throughout the program. Classes of climbing and rating systems are also discussed.

What to Expect:

- Instruction in knots, harnesses, communication, belaying and climbing movement
- Top-rope climbs, ranging from beginner to intermediate
- Belaying and backup belaying
- Rappel instruction: equipment, fireman's backup belay, techniques
- Rappelling on vertical and over-hanging rock faces using various rappel devices
- Learn the Leave No Trace principles and Outdoor Code, and explain what they mean.
- Explain how the difficulty of climbs is classified, and apply classifications to the rock faces or walls where you will demonstrate your climbing skills.
- Explain the following: top-rope climbing, lead climbing, and bouldering.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

- Evaluate the safety of a particular climbing area. Consider weather, visibility, the condition of the climbing surface, and any other environmental hazards.
- Explain the importance of using verbal signals during every climb and rappel.
- Rope care and inspection.
- Demonstrate the ability to tie several knots related to climbing and rappelling.
- Demonstrate ways to store rope, hardware, and other gear used for climbing, rappelling, and belaying.

The BSA limits district and council activities to bouldering, top-rope climbing, and belayed rappelling. BSA units that want to conduct their own bouldering, climbing, rappelling, or other related climbing activities must follow the requirements set forth in "**Climb On Safely**" training.

The group size is important for several factors and will be ultimately determined by your instructors and the facility. Here are a few guidelines:

- Typical group of 10-17 participants, depending on location.
- There are many options for larger groups that can be discussed specifically with your group (different location, 2-day program, etc.).
- Group sizes are limited due to environmental impact concerns, permit concerns, and to allow for maximum participation.

WHAT IS "BOULDERING"?

Bouldering is a form of rock climbing that is performed without the use of ropes or harnesses. While it can be done without any equipment whatsoever, most climbers use climbing shoes to help secure footholds, chalk to keep their hands dry, and bouldering mats to prevent injuries from falls. Unlike regular climbing and rappelling, bouldering problems (the path that a climber takes in order to complete the climb) are usually less than 12 feet tall. Artificial climbing walls allow participants to train indoors in areas without natural boulders. The sport originated as a method of training for roped climbs and mountaineering. Bouldering enabled climbers to practice specific moves at a safe distance from the ground. Additionally, the sport served to build stamina and increase finger strength.

In BSA, bouldering is a great way to get the younger scouts involved in the climbing experience since it is appropriate for all ages. It serves as the stepping stone into Boy Scouts where the program branches to both Climbing Merit Badge and COPE programs.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS COPE/CLIMBING PROGRAMS?

The “BSA Guide to Safe Scouting - Age Appropriate Guidelines” lists the following for Bouldering, Climbing and COPE activities. The following table is an excerpt from the Guide to Safe Scouting. For the full listing see [Guide To Safe Scouting](#)

Activity	Tiger Cub (with adult partner)	Wolf/Bear Cub Scouts	WEBELOS Scouts	Boy Scout	Older Boy Scouts and Venturers
Belaying					
Bouldering					
Canopy Tours (zip lines)					
Climbing – Natural Rock					
Climbing – Vertical wall or Tower					
COPE					
Initiative Games					
Lead Climbing					
Portable Climbing Walls					
Rappelling					

What Elements are available at Camp Currier for COPE?

Activities are selected by the COPE director to meet the needs of the group. A wide variety of elements are available. These include:

The COPE course at CAMP CURRIER:

Low Elements:

- All Aboard - Prouty's Landing - T.P. Shuffle -Trust Fall (Accessible) – Nitro Crossing
- Spider Web – Horizontal Spider Web - Triangular Traverse/Heebie Jeebie –
- Trolley - Wild Woozie – Islands – The Wall - Mohawk Walk - Whale Watch (Accessible)

High Elements:

- Slack Line-2 Line Bridge –Jungle crossing – Tube cargo net access - Multiline Zip Line – Confidence Pole -Burma Bridge/3 Line Bridge – Giants ladder

What Programs are Available?

One-Day Program — *Low Elements Only*

The Low COPE one-day program is typically eight hours. The Low COPE program includes initiative games and the low element activities. Meals are not provided. Bring a sack lunch. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of twenty four (call for larger groups).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$10/participant with an \$80 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$35/participant with a \$280 min.

One-Day Program — *HIGH Elements Only*

The High COPE one-day program is typically eight hours. The program will include selected high elements. Meals are not provided. Bring a sack lunch. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of twenty four (call for larger groups).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$15/participant with an \$120 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$45/participant with a \$360 min.

One-Day Program — *Low and High Elements*

This one-day program is typically eight hours. This program will include selected Low and High elements. Meals are not provided. Bring a sack lunch. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of twenty four (call for larger groups).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$15/participant with an \$120 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$45/participant with a \$360 min.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

Weekend COPE Program — *Low and High Elements*

The weekend COPE program begins on Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. This program is designed to develop personal and team skills. The program includes all of the instruction and activities of the one-day Low Program and the High Element Program. Program elements will be customized for your group. Groups must provide their own camping equipment, and food for the unit and the staff. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of eighteen (call for larger groups).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$25/participant with a \$200 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$60/participant with a \$480 min.

Climbing Tower

The climbing tower at Camp Currier may be reserved for use by units. Reservations are for 8 hours and involve the use of the tower and related equipment only. For partial day programs or other arrangements please call. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of eighteen (call for larger groups).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$10/participant with an \$80 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$40/participant with a \$320 min.

Zip Line only

This special program will allow units to experience the fun and excitement of the zip line without participating in the full COPE program. Minimum group size is eight with a maximum of eighteen (**call for larger groups**).

For units with approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$10/participant with an \$80 min.

For units requiring approved COPE/Climbing Supervision: Cost is \$40/participant with a \$320 min.

Corporate and Educational (Non-BSA) Groups – Call Council Office at (901) 317-4193 for more information.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

Supervision and Training Requirements (defined in National Camp Standards)

All COPE and climbing staff have appropriate qualifications and training as shown on the chart below.

Level I and Level II instructors are site/system specific, which means the training qualifies them to operate programs only within their own councils – at the site/camp which they are trained. Additional council level certifications are available for those instructors wishing to operate programs at both Kia Kima Scout Reservation and Camp Currier and/or natural areas.

Training for Level I instructors will be done primarily at the council level. Training for Level II instructors may be done at the council or national level (National Camping School-NCS). COPE and climbing directors and instructors with current status will retain their status until the expiration date on their card. Please contact the Council's COPE and Climbing committee if you or your unit requires training and none is currently scheduled.

The recent changes to the National Standards relating to the COPE and Climbing Programs are significant and should enable the council to take greater ownership of our COPE and climbing programs. In the new standards, the trained positions are as follows:

- Level I instructor (COPE OR Climbing)
- Level II instructor (COPE OR Climbing)
- Instructor in Training (Climbing Only)

One significant change in program operation is that Level II instructors for either COPE or Climbing directly supervise the program site. The qualifications for the COPE and Climbing program are as follows:

COPE and Climbing Program Staff Member Qualifications and Training

Position	Prerequisite	Primary Training	Duration	Age
COPE instructor in training	none	COPE and climbing foundation training AND COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	16
COPE Level I Instructor	none	COPE and climbing foundation training AND COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
COPE Level II Instructor	COPE Level I Instructor	COPE Level II instructor training	3 years	21
Low COPE Level I	none	COPE and climbing foundation training AND Low COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
Low COPE Level II	Low COPE Level I	Low COPE Level II instructor training	3 years	21
Climbing instructor in Training	none	COPE and climbing foundation training AND climbing Level I instructor training	Yearly	16
Climbing Level I	none	COPE and climbing foundation training AND climbing Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
Climbing Level II	Climbing Level I	Climbing Level II instructor training	3 years	21
Portable climbing wall facilitator	none	Portable climbing wall facilitator training	Yearly	21
Bouldering facilitator	none	Bouldering facilitator training	Yearly	16

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Instructors in Training *must be directly supervised by a Level I or Level II instructor.*
- *A Level II instructor directly supervises the program and must be present at the program site except for bouldering or portable climbing walls*
- A Climbing Instructor is an individual who:
 - Is registered with the BSA as an adult leader of a Unit (Troop, Crew, Pack, etc.) or in a District or Council-level position (such as Unit Commissioner, etc.).
 - Has successfully completed the Chickasaw Council Climbing Instructor Course (or accepted equivalent).
 - Is listed as an "Instructor" in good standing on the most-recent Chickasaw Council's Climbing Committee Instructor list.
- The "Lead Level II Instructor" is defined by the event; he or she is the ultimate authority at that event.

Training Opportunities/Certification Courses

A more comprehensive training offering description will be set forth when developed by the committee.

COPE and Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements

Program	Program Supervision Requirements	Min. Staff	Ratio	Participants minimum age
Low COPE	1 - COPE Level II Instructor	2	12:1	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the Level II Instructor.
High COPE	1 - COPE Level II Instructor	2	6:1	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the Level II Instructor.
Climbing Tower/wall	1 - COPE Level II Instructor or Climbing Level II Instructor	2	6:1	Maturity evaluated by Level II Instructor.
Portable Climbing Wall	1 - COPE Level II Instructor or Climbing Level II Instructor	2	Event specific	Maturity evaluated by Level II Instructor.
Zip Line Only - not as a part of High COPE events	2 - COPE Level II Instructors	3	Event specific	11 years of age and able to reach a height of 6 feet with the heel of your hand standing flat footed. Maturity evaluated by the Level II Instructor.

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

Programs conducted at any Chickasaw Council COPE or Climbing facility will be conducted by trained and certified instructors following BSA National standards and those requirements listed here. The Lead Level II Instructor has final authority for an event and is responsible for the interpretation of these standards.

Units (this includes any BSA registered Unit, an authorized group or District or Council event) wishing to reserve the facilities at either camp must either have approved COPE/Climbing Supervision from within their unit or will be assigned by the council.

Facility Procedures and Policies

Forms and requirements:

- A complete and proper reservation must be approved by the Council.
- **All** participants for **all** events must have an Informed Consent /Hold Harmless form.
- Events at Climbing Tower and the COPE course require a current BSA medical form parts A & B. Summer camp activities require parts A, B and C
- For non-Scout groups, a medical health history/informed consent form (Challenge Course and Climbing Health History and Consent Form) is required for all participants.

Climbing Tower

The tower may only be used under the control of a current BSA Level II Climbing or COPE Instructor trained by Chickasaw Council, another Council, or National Camp School. Training from other than Chickasaw council may be recognized on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Climbing and COPE Committee. See page 7 for instructor definition.

COPE Course

The course may only be used under the control of a current BSA Level II COPE Instructor trained by Chickasaw Council, another Council, or National Camp School. Training from other than Chickasaw council may be recognized on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Climbing and COPE Committee. See above for instructor definition.

All programs at Camp Currier will be overseen by an authorized Level II COPE or Climbing Instructor as designated by the Chickasaw Council.

Facilities

There are no special facilities available for participants other than the course itself and camp amenities. Weekend groups will camp in an assigned camp site Friday and Saturday nights. Groups should bring personal tents. Each participant should bring bedding (cot, mattress, blankets, sleeping bag, pillow, etc.), a ground cloth for their tent, and appropriate clothing. Flashlights, lanterns, stoves, cooking equipment, rain gear, insect repellants, and other camping equipment will be helpful.

Food

Groups will need to make plans for sack lunches for the one-day courses and plan for two breakfasts, two lunches (to be eaten on the course), one dinner, and two cracker-barrels (late night snacks) for the weekend course. Groups should also plan for guests (C.O.P.E./Climbing facilitators) for each meal. For youth groups (Scout or non-Scout), appropriate adult leadership is required. Meals plans should

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

take into account the time requirements for the program selected. If possible a designated cook team not participating in the program should be considered.

ARRIVAL/LOCATION

Participants in the one-day courses should arrive at Camp no later than ½ hour before the designated start time. Participants in the weekend course should arrive at Camp no later than 7:00 pm on the Friday evening of the course to have time to meet your facilitators and plan the weekend.

HOW DO I SCHEDULE MY GROUP?

COPE/Climbing programs are facilitated by trained Instructors. These are Chickasaw Council volunteers trained by the national Camp School syllabus. The reservations process requires that we identify an Instructor for your course. Once identified, they will contact you and begin to work the details. To start this process, complete the Camp Carrier COPE/Climbing Reservation Request Form and submit it to the council office along with the \$100 deposit.

Process

- Requests are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Requests are occasionally rejected due to the availability of directors. A request on the calendar will show "Pending".
- A deposit of \$100 must be made at the council office within two weeks of the original request.
- A deposit will change the reservation to "Reserved".
- Cancellations made 14 days or less than the scheduled date will result in the forfeit of the deposit.
- When your application is accepted and scheduled, you will receive a phone call from the Lead Instructor to discuss your team objectives and final plans.
- **IF** no payment is made within 2 weeks of the initial request, the slot is automatically released and the process starts over.
- **IF** a unit cancels, they forfeit the slot and are responsible for working out a refund or credit directly with the council office. (Cancellations must be made at least 2 weeks in advance.)
- **IF** a requestor cannot find sufficient help in staffing the event, the Climbing and COPE Committee will *try* to get the word out but does not guarantee the availability of staff – this is the unit's responsibility.

Sharing a Resource

If a requestor wants to use a resource on a date that is already reserved, he or she may contact the owner of that time slot to request sharing of the resource. The decision to share the time slot rests entirely with the owner of the time slot, not the council office, not the Climbing and COPE Committee. The Lead Level II Instructor must be aware of the number of participants and has the authority to deny the sharing request.

It frequently works out in the spirit of scouting that units share both staff and participants very effectively. Other times the nature of the planned event may not fit with a shared situation. The council encourages sharing where possible but respects the first come first serve nature of the reservation system.

If a sharing situation is worked out, the Lead Level II Instructor assigned to the owner of the time slot is the ultimate authority for that event and responsible for the safe, fun and orderly

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

delivery of the activity to the participants. This includes meeting standards for health and medical form processing as well as ensuring appropriate staffing ratios.

Council Wide Events

"Council wide events" refer to OA weekends, Powderhorn, Venturing gatherings, Camporees, Wood Badge Training, NYLT and similar events. If the leadership of the event wishes to include activities involving the Climbing Tower and/or COPE course, the event leadership must contact the council to arrange an appropriate Lead Level II Instructor and work with them to fulfill the supervision requirements necessary.

SAFETY REGULATIONS (Set to National Standards)

ALL Participants and Instructors/Staff must agree to and abide by all appropriate safety guidelines, taken in whole from the standards, BSA Policies and Guides, Manufacturer's recommendations and specifications, Tower and/or Course specific guidelines from the manufacturer or Council and any others deemed appropriate. The following is a non-inclusive list of important considerations and by no means is considered the full list of safety guidelines or precautions.

- All equipment shall comply with standards when applicable. All specialized equipment needed for conducting a safe COPE and/or climbing program must be available to participants and staff members and approved by the appropriate COPE and Climbing committee.
- Personal climbing helmets and harnesses may be used if inspected and approved by the on-site Level II instructor.**
- All manufactured equipment must be used and retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Each participant and staff member in the fall zone of a climbing site or COPE high-course site must wear a rock-climbing helmet.
- All climbing harnesses must be used and retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or 10 years from the date first placed into service or when condition warrants, whichever comes first
- A written log of the history of each climbing rope used in the program must be kept, indicating (1) the date the rope was purchased; (2) the date the rope was placed in service; and (3) any environmental, severe, or unusual stresses that were placed on the rope.
- Each rope must be uniquely marked and permanently identified. All cordage used in life safety systems must be identified with the date of purchase. All cordage used in life safety systems must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or when condition warrants or 10 years from the date of purchase, whichever comes first. Cordage attached to protection, e.g., tricams, SLCDs, hexcentrics, etc., need not be replaced unless condition warrants.
- An instructor conducts a site and safety orientation for participants before the program activity. A written checklist is used at each orientation to ensure that all points are covered.
- No participant will ever be coerced or pressured into attempting an activity. A participant may be encouraged to take the next small step, but the final choice of participation and performance is left entirely up to the individual.
- The Level II instructor determines if a participant's safety might be compromised by course conditions, staffing, weather, or any other factor, and is empowered to open and close the COPE or climbing program. Staff members are trained to monitor environmental conditions and their effect on participants during challenging activities
- At least one person at the program site must have a valid certificate of training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and must be physically present whenever the program is in

COPE AND CLIMBING COMMITTEE POLICIES

operation. If the program site is more than 30 minutes away from an emergency vehicle accessible roadway, there must be a person trained to a minimum level of wilderness and remote first aid (16 hours) present at the program site.

**** Chickasaw Council's policy is to not allow personal gear at Camp Currier facilities or events for participants.**

Chickasaw Council will offer Universal Access to participants as staffing and facilities allow.

Supervision Responsibilities and Unit Assistance

The instructor's training includes procedures as part of the process that will dictate how equipment is handled, recorded, logged, stored, destroyed and cleaned. Unit members/program guests are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to assist your instructors in the maintenance of this equipment for the continued enjoyment and benefit of all in the council. There is a lot of equipment to be managed in this process.

In addition:

- Equipment records are kept and include a complete inventory including retirement criteria.
- Staff members inspect all program equipment before and after each use and are taught how to inspect equipment for defects that render equipment unsafe for usage. Disposal of retired equipment is done in such a way that it cannot be retrieved.
- When not being used, equipment must be kept in locked, protected storage away from exposure to sunlight, heat, moisture, chemicals, and destruction or contamination by animals.
- All COPE and climbing staff know and use written checklists for opening and closing the program site, safety procedures, and recommended equipment used each time events or activities are held. This includes detailed information for disabling towers or high-course events when not in use.

Supervision Remuneration

With respect to the volunteer staff of trained COPE and Climbing Instructors, we believe that the time spent supervising Council wide events, unit events, or other groups (BSA or Non-BSA) and the level of trust, mental acuity and concentration, and level of responsibility are deserving of remuneration. We have set forth the above program costs to reflect a respectable remuneration for these instructors.