



## GSLC Safety Moment—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, Hinckley Scout Ranch and Camp Steiner. Registration for these camps can be done through the council web page: [www.saltlakescouts.org](http://www.saltlakescouts.org).

**For all unit climbing, rappelling and technical canyoneering activities, the following must be adhered to but not limited to the following. For a complete list of requirements see the document list at the bottom of this page and/or contact the Council Climbing committee through the Council office.**

1. All participants must fill out the Annual Health and Medical Record.
2. Units must have a minimum of two qualified instructors for all climbing and rappelling activities maintaining a ratio of instructors to participants of 1:6 for climbing and rappelling activities and a ratio of 1:5 for technical canyoneering.
  - a. A list of qualified instructors can be found in [Climb on Safety](#) and [Canyoneering Safely](#).
  - b. When climbing at a local climbing gym, use qualified instructors as approved by the local gym maintaining an instructor to participant ratio of 1:6.
3. The adult supervisor is responsible for ensuring that someone in the group is currently trained in American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR or equivalent. Additionally, for all technical canyoneering, someone in the group must be trained in Wilderness First Aid.
4. All participants must wear UIAA, CEN or ASTM approved rock-climbing helmets with chinstraps.

### BSA Climbing Instructor Course

The Council offers climbing instructor courses April and October of each year. Information can be found at the Council climbing web page, <https://www.saltlakescouts.org/climbing> or by contacting the climbing committee through the Council office.

### CLIMB ON SAFELY

It is recommended that all Scout leaders complete the online *Climb On Safely* course found at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). All Scout leaders should commit to following the 8 points of *Climb On Safely* and *Canyoneering Safely* that are:

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

### Resources:

*Belay On, Climb On Safely* and *Canyoneering Safely* found at [HERE](#)

*Great Salt Lake Unit Policy for Climbing, Rappelling, and Specialized Climbing Activities* found [HERE](#)