

Bouldering Leadership Policies

A Subset of Climbing Policy

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Update by Ethan Cantlin 2/28/18

General:

There must be at least 3 people on any bouldering trip. There may be one active climber on the problem at a time, with at least 2 other individuals spotting. Participants can be of any level, but the trip leader has the right to decide who is allowed on the trip based on the difficulty of the planned problems and the participants' level of experience. Trip size is limited by the number of crashpads, the group's location, and ability to not interfere with other climbers. Maximum ratio of participants to leaders is 8:2 and the maximum number of participants is 10.

Note: Highballs (bouldering problems higher than 20 feet) are not allowed on club trips

Classification of Trips:

Beginner:

- Beginner problems (V0, V1)
- Large, open, level landing area

Beginner trips serve as an introduction to outdoor bouldering. These trips teach participants how to spot and place crashpads to protect falls. Participants do not need prior climbing experience, but are encouraged to visit the Wall in the '87 gym before going on the trip.

Intermediate:

- Intermediate problems (V2, V3)
- Possible uneven landing area

Intermediate trips require participants to be able to move crash pads and spot the climber with direction from the leader. Prior climbing experience is strongly recommended, as otherwise participants will not be able to complete or enjoy problems.

Advanced:

- Harder problems (V4+)
- Uneven or awkward landing area with small space

Advanced trips require participants to have extensive prior climbing experience. Participants should be comfortable spotting and placing pads in a variety of conditions and surfaces.

Classification of Leaders:

Assistant Leader:

- Assistant leaders must demonstrate the ability to do and teach the following:
 - Properly place crash pads
 - Safely spot climbers
- Assistant leaders should be confident bouldering outside, and reading problems
- Assistant leaders must have current WFA and CPR
- Must have been on at least one ROC bouldering trip
- Must have participated in leadership training course (or equivalent thereof approved by officers and Assistant Director of Recreation)

Note: Wall Leadership and current WFA and CPR and one ROC rock climbing trip may qualify an individual for assistant leadership

Leader:

Must meet all the requirements above as well as:

- Be experienced and comfortable bouldering outside
- Have the ability to plan for and adapt to changing weather conditions
- Be comfortable and confident spotting and placing pads on a variety of surfaces for a group of participants
- Be able to read the problem and provide information to aid participants with the climb
- Have knowledge of the bouldering area
 - If the desired problem is being climbed, the group knows another to work on

Equipment:

Individual gear to be taken on every trip:

- Extra warm layers and socks
- Water and food for the day
- Climbing shoes (recommended)
- Appropriate footwear to access boulders (boots, sneakers, etc.)
- Chalk (recommended)

Group gear to be taken by leader on every trip:

- At least 2 crashpads
- First aid kit
- Extra food and water
- Brush for cleaning holds (recommended)
- Bouldering area's guidebook
- At least one beanie