THE RISK MANAGEMENT OF TEACHING ADVANCED CLIMBING SKILLS
THE GOALS

1. WHAT
2. WHO
3. WHY

4. PROGRAM ANALYSIS

5. STRUCTURE, SYSTEMS, PROGRESSION

6. INCIDENTS & DATA
WHAT?

• LEADING
  • SPORT
  • TRADITIONAL
• LEAD BELAYING
• MULTI-PITCHING
  • FOLLOWER
  • LEADER
WHO?

• PROGRAMS WITH A PREDOMINATELY TOP ROPE CURRICULUM

• PROGRAMS ALREADY TEACHING ADVANCED CLIMBING

• PROGRAMS INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS STEP
WHY?

• POPULARITY

• PERSONAL GROWTH

• PURSUIT AFTER YOUR PROGRAM
PERSONAL GROWTH
CLIMBING AFTER YOUR PROGRAM
PROGRAM ANALYSIS

- CONNECTION BETWEEN MISSION AND RISK MANAGEMENT
- PROGRAM LENGTH
- CLASSROOM
- GEAR
- STAFF
- STUDENTS
MISSION

DOES OPENING UP OUR PROGRAM TO ADVANCED CLIMBING SKILLS SUPPORT OUR MISSION??
PROGRAM LENGTH

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO STUDENTS?
CLASSROOM

- PERMITS
- ACCESSIBILITY
- CRAGS FOR NOVICES
- MULTI-PITCHING
GEAR

• ACQUIRING
• MAINTAINING
• EVALUATING
STAFF

• EXPERIENCE
• TRAINING
• FAMILIARITY
• STRUCTURE
• JUDGEMENT & RESPONSIBILITY
STUDENTS

- PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS
- THE RIGHT STUDENTS
- INSTRUCTOR JUDGEMENT
STRUCTURE, SYSTEMS, PROGRESSION

• INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT
• ESTABLISHED FIELD PRACTICES AND GUIDELINES
• BALANCE OF PROTOCOLS AND INSTRUCTOR JUDGEMENT
• TOOLS AND RESOURCES
• SKILLS PROGRESSIONS
STAFF TRAINING & EXPECTATIONS
A. The Instructor will:

1. Be able to climb a variety of terrain, crack, face, friction and role model and teach appropriate movement techniques for that type of climb.

   a. Have mastery of knots used at NOLS for climbing and basic rescue.
   
   b. Be able to efficiently build appropriate simple artificial and natural anchors without supervision from other instructors.

   * 2. Be able to set up, supervise, and manage four students on a top rope site (1:4 instructor/student ratio).

   a. Have mastery of knots used at NOLS for climbing and basic rescue.

   b. Be able to efficiently build appropriate simple artificial and natural anchors without supervision from other instructors.

   * 3. Be able to recognize and correct student errors in belaying, climbing, rappelling and rope skills.

   * 4. Effectively manage 2 – 3 students on 3, 4, and 5 class terrain (the latter within personal climbing abilities). Includes, spotting, handlines, fixed lines, hip belays, terrain belays and pack passes.

5. Be able to lead climb at the 5.6 level with student belayers.

6. Be able to lead/guide two students on multipitch rock, mixed snow and rock, or snow routes within personal ability; e.g. within personal comfort zone while climbing efficiently and managing the climb as a “classroom” for our students while minimizing likelihood of a lead fall.

7. Be knowledgeable of and experienced using the specialized climbing gear on the course.

* 8. Understand and make use of various methods of descent with students (lowering, rappelling instructor first, students first).

* 9. Be able to retreat from multi-pitch climbs efficiently with appropriate caution under adverse weather conditions.

10. Be able to perform the following self-rescue techniques (in a realistic situations, e.g.: full body weight):

   a. Tie off a fallen climber
   
   b. Escape a belay
   
   c. Lower
   
   d. Unload a weighted auto locking belay device

   e. Simple Hauls 2:1/3:1
   
   f. Ascend a fixed line
   
   g. Pass knots
STUDENT PROGRESSIONS
ONSITING, RESCUE
MULTI-PITCH
LEADING, LEAD BELAYING
GEAR, ANCHORS, RAPPELLING
TOP ROPING
TOP ROPING

1 ON 1 CHECKS

NO BACK-UP, STUDENT CHECKS

DISPLAYED COMPETENCY

BACK UP BELAY, INSTRUCTOR CHECKS
LEADING

ANCHORS, BELAYING FROM ABOVE, ETC.

LEADING: RED POINT vs. ON SITE

MOCK LEADS

CLASS ON LEAD TECHNIQUE AND THEORY
RISK MANAGEMENT DATA

• INFORM US ABOUT STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES

• ADVANCED SKILLS = MORE INCIDENTS?

• FOR WHO?

• HOW?
Total Incidents: 79

- Student: 54%
- Instructor: 34%
- Other Party: 4%
- Nature: 3%
- Instructor in Training: 5%

Incidents by Primary Source
TOP ROPE INCIDENTS (30)  
BY PRIMARY SOURCE 

STUDENT 60%  
INSTRUCTOR 30%  
OTHER 10%
ADVANCED SKILLS INCIDENTS (33)

BY PRIMARY SOURCE

STUDENT 49%

INSTRUCTOR 42%

OTHER 9%
INCIDENTS BY PRIMARY ACTIVITY

- Top Rope: 33%
- Multi Pitch: 33%
- Leading: 11%
- Rappelling: 9%
- Other: 8%
- Previous Injury: 4%
- Bouldering: 1%
- Route Cleaning: 1%
TOP ROP INCIDENTS
30 TOTAL INCIDENTS

- ROCK FALL: 7
- BELAYING: 4
- RAPPELLING: 3
- SLIP/FALL: 2
- ANCHOR: 1
- ATHLETIC INJURY: 1
- OTHER: 1

Legend:
- **STUDENT**
- **INSTRUCTOR**
- **INSTRUCTOR IN TRAINING**
- **OTHER PARTY**
MULTI-PITCH INCIDENTS
26 TOTAL INCIDENTS

- INSTRUCTORS
- STUDENTS
- INSTRUCTORS IN TRAINING
- NATURE
BELAYING INCIDENTS
14 TOTAL INCIDENTS

- Top Rope: 4
- Lead: 1
- Multi-Pitch Lead: 3
- Auto Locking Device: 2

Legend:
- Blue: Instructor
- Red: Student
- Green: Instructors in Training

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LEADING INCIDENTS
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 9

- SPORT FALL
- TRAD FALL
- TRAD FALL MULTI-PITCH

INSTRUCTOR
STUDENT
QUESTIONS?
DISCUSSION
COMMENTS
THEN SOME INCIDENTS....
QUESTIONS FOR YOUR INCIDENT

• WHAT WENT WRONG?
  • DECISIONS?
  • SYSTEMS?
  • STUDENTS? STAFF?

• IS THIS A SKILL YOU COULD SEE BEING PRESENT IN YOUR PROGRAM? WHY?

• WHAT ARE PROTOCOLS, GUIDELINES, OR ADDITIONS TO TRAINING YOU WOULD MAKE BASED ON LEARNING FROM THIS INCIDENT?