

Climbing Wall

I. General Policies

1. The climbing wall manager has the authority to ask anyone to leave if the climbers behavior is unsafe or in violation of any policies
2. A waiver / hold harmless form must be completed by the climber in order to use the climbing wall facility
3. All climbers must use established commands and safety protocols at ALL times
4. Only SFA climbing wall staff may provide instruction at the wall
5. Only patrons who have passed the belay class may belay other climbers
6. Quickdraws, holds or hardware must be removed or replaced only by climbing wall staff. Please report all loose holds to them immediately
7. Climbing shoes or athletic running shoes must be used when climbing. No boots or hard soled marking footwear is allowed.
8. Wearing jewelry while climbing is dangerous. It is highly recommended that you remove all jewelry prior to climbing (rings, necklaces, etc.)
9. Allow right-of-way to other climbers who were first on route on any given section of the wall (including bouldering areas)

II. Climbing Eligibility

1. Must be an active Student Recreation Center member or authorized user.
2. All climbers under 16 years of age must be supervised by a parent or guardian
3. All climbers must fit into a harness provided by the climbing wall.
4. All climbers must go through the belay class before climbing on the wall.
5. Patrons who are pregnant should consult their physician before climbing.

III. Equipment

1. Climbers must use UIAA-approved safety equipment. If a climber wants to use their own harness, the climber must sign the personal equipment section on their waver
2. If the safety equipment at the wall is unable to accommodate a patron, they may only boulder on site
3. All climbers must use SFA hardware and ropes (carabiner, belay devices, etc)
4. Climbing wall equipment may not be taken out of the climbing wall area
5. Climbing shoes must remain on the climbing deck
6. Participants are responsible for the return of any equipment checked out on their ID. The equipment must be returned in the same condition in which it was checked out
7. Lost or damaged equipment must be paid for at the replacement cost for the item

IV. Bouldering

1. In order to boulder, you must complete the bouldering orientation with the climbing wall staff
2. When bouldering solo, climbers must maintain their feet at a height no higher than their waist height from the ground. A climber may boulder to their shoulder height from the ground when using a crash pad and/or a spotter. Climbing above these heights requires the use of a rope and belayer

3. Bouldering climbers must give right-of-way to roped climbers
4. If you are not bouldering or spotting, please stand clear from the wall and the cave

V. Roped Climbing

1. To top rope climb, you must go through an SFA climbing class
2. In order to belay, you must pass the SFA belay skills & written test
3. Figure 8-follow through knot with back-up knot must be tied directly into harness belay loop
4. Keep off of the top of the wall and do not climb past the top-rope anchors
5. Stand clear of all climbing areas when not climbing, belaying or spotting
6. Harnesses must be double-backed at the waist and the leg loop buckles when worn
7. Floor anchors are recommended for use on all climbs, especially when a gross size disparity exists between climber and belayer. Use the correct anchor for the route being climbed to prevent excessive belayer swing and potential belay failure
8. Always check and double check the climber's knot, harness and belay system before each climb. If in doubt, ask for assistance from the climbing wall staff
9. No top rope climbing routes adjacent to a lead climb shall be attempted during a lead climb

VI. Lead Climbing

1. All lead climbers and lead belayers must first pass the lead skills test
2. All clips must be made safely before the entire body passes them, and in the order that they appear on that climb.
3. Lead climbers must recognize back clips and z-clips, and realize that these are dangerous and must be corrected before climbing higher
4. Lead climbers need to identify their desire to climb a route to any top rope climbers on an adjacent route, and wait until all such climbers are on the deck before commencing