

Beginning Tree Climbing

Learning to Climb Trees Using Rope & Saddle

Introduction

The *Beginning Tree Climbing* course introduces the basic skills necessary to enjoy technical tree climbing while minimizing associated risks.

Instruction includes proper use and care of equipment and introduces the skills necessary to: inspect a tree, enter a tree, maneuver around the canopy, return to the ground. Assessing and understanding the health and condition of a tree is where it all begins as there is no room for error. Students are introduced to technical tree climbing using the traditional Moving Rope System (MRS) (formerly referred to as Doubled Rope Technique or DdRT).

Coursework covers:

- Tree health & hazard assessment
- Basic tree entry using throw-ball
- Climbing & working knots
- MRS/DdRT climbing systems
- Climbing techniques (ascent, maneuvering, descent)
- Positioning & minimizing risk
- Equipment selection, function, maintenance, and care
- Ethics, safety standards, safe climbing practices

Course Manual:

All students receive a copy of *Beginning Tree Climbing: Climbing Trees Using Rope & Saddle*. The manual is for informational purposes only, designed as a reference resource for information covered during the *Beginning Tree Climbing* course as instructed by approved Treetop Explorer, LLC instructors. The manual includes additional information not covered during the class, which will aid climbers as their climbing skills progress in the years ahead.

Climbing Proficiency:

Upon completion of the *Beginning Tree Climbing* course and receiving a “satisfactory” rating, climbers will have successfully demonstrated that they understand and are capable of properly identifying a tree conducive for recreational climbing, setting up a proper MRS climbing system, and maneuvering around the tree from ascent to descent utilizing industry recommended climbing practices to minimize associated risks.

These proficiencies enable climbers to climb trees for basic tree entry purposes (such as to hang swings, hammocks, and bat houses, or climb for recreational enjoyment). These skills can be utilized for countless hours of exploration of trees and forests.

Completion of the course is not sufficient nor intended to prepare climbers to take others into trees, teach the knots and techniques covered, or perform tree work. Such skills require additional instruction beyond the scope of the *Beginning Tree Climbing* course.

Once you have become proficient with the skills learned in class, you can expand your skill set through additional instructional courses:

- *Advanced MRS Climbing Techniques: “Beyond the Blake’s”*
- *Advanced Climbing Techniques: Introduction to Stationary Rope Systems (SRS)*
- *Pruning & Tree Surgery* (tree care: pruning, removal, rigging, cabling)