

What to expect during the 5-day Climbing/Facilitation Course

Whether you are looking to pursue a job as a recreational tree climbing facilitator, start a recreational tree climbing program at your camp/center/organization, or open your own guide service, the combined course will introduce you to the climbing method, facilitating others, and how to build your program.

Days 1 & 2 will focus on getting you into the tree! You are introduced to technical tree climbing and the climbing system. Once you learn the ropes, or knots in this case, you will head aloft. You will learn about assessing and identifying proper climbing trees, equipment, climbing systems, ascent, in-tree maneuvering, descent, and equipment inspection and storage.

Days 3 & 4 introduce you to the role of the facilitator. You are introduced to procedures for inspecting & preparing trees and the climbing area for participants. You will learn about challenges facing climbers, learning styles, and facilitation techniques to help participants climb and explore the treetop under their own ability. You will learn how to get participants climbing, monitor climber safety, coach and encourage climbers, and return them back to the ground in a safe and controlled fashion. We cannot climb for them, but a skilled facilitator can set the stage and foster an experience they won't soon forget!

Day 5 allows you to put it all together - prepare the tree, facilitate climbers from ascent through descent and assist climbers by helping them navigate through common challenges.

You are introduced to and have time to practice aerial-rescue techniques. While most facilitation is performed from the ground, there may be an occasion that requires a facilitator's assistance aloft or the need to manually return a participant to the ground. This is one place where your climbing skills come into play as a facilitator.!

This course complies with and covers the guidelines set forth by the Global Organization of Tree Climbers for facilitated climbing programs. Completing the necessary course work and GOTC requirements, you can obtain the endorsement as a GOTC Recognized Facilitator.

Our week together will provide you with the information you need to develop your recreational tree climbing program! It doesn't end there as I remain available to you for Q&A as you develop your skills & program and continue to work towards obtaining the GOTC Recognized Facilitator credential.