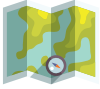


# CLIMBER CODE OF ETHICS

As climbers we have a unique opportunity to be stewards of the environment we spend so much time in, and leaders in guaranteeing the preservation of it, and our ability to access our treasured outdoor resources. Help keep access to climbing sites and public lands open by doing the following:

01



## ACCESS

- Be aware of and observe seasonal closures, access requirements and agreements. Communicate to other climbers and user groups concerning these issues to make everyone aware. Carefully consider the consequences of your actions and the enjoyment of future visitors to the site.
- Check with the managing land agency (State Parks, National Parks, BLM, etc) before developing new routes or installing fixed hardware; permission or permits are typically required.

02



## IMPACT

- Be a good steward of Public Lands: Protect native plants, animals, geology and the cultural resources of the site.
- Help reduce impact and preserve a safe climbing environment by keeping groups to six or fewer climbers. Respect other site users, both climbers and non-climbers by not sprawling your gear everywhere, or piling your gear and packs on top of other's gear and packs. Educate your group, particularly kids, about respecting others space and keeping noise down.
- Be respectful: Keep music low or turn it off if asked. Watch your language around other climbers or climbers with children.
- Protect sensitive sandstone: Wait at least 24-hours following rainstorms to climb.
- Avoid any actions that cause unnecessary erosion or impacts to fragile cryptobiotic soils. Use existing trails or washes and do not leave unnecessary cairns or markers.
- Avoid blazing new trails.
- Do not disturb nesting birds.
- Do not remove existing vegetation from a cliff. Don't manufacture holds or chip rock.
- In areas that allow dogs, please keep dogs on a leash to avoid harassment of wildlife. Respect other users by not allowing your dog to run around belayers and ropes, causing an unsafe distraction.

03



## WASTE

- Pack it in, Pack it out (this includes human waste). Dispose of garbage and human Waste in a hygienic and responsible manner.
- If you see rubbish left by other users please take it out too. Pay particular attention to the small things (cigarette butts, fruit labels and silver foil). They are an unsightly degradation to the climbing site.
- Use toilets where provided. If they are not available, bury human waste at least 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 200 steps from any water source, wash or access trail. Better yet, use a WAG Bag and carry out human waste and toilet paper.

04



## FIRE

- Fire is a serious threat to both safety and ecology. Avoid all risk of fire.
- Only light fires in designated fire rings in well-cleared areas. Think about where you are using your fuel stove and be responsible with its use.
- Observe all seasonal fire restrictions. Remember restrictions apply to fuel stoves and smokers.

05



## TRADITIONS

- Consider ethical issues established for the area you are using. Check in with local climbing shops, Federal (BLM, NPS, US Forest Service) or State Park headquarters if you are unsure about the use of chalk, placing fixed hardware, proper access to climbing sites, etc. In other words, ASK FIRST.
- Avoiding climber conflicts by respecting established climbing traditions related to specific sites.
- Avoid indiscriminate and excessive use of fixed hardware.
- Don't modify existing climbs. This includes retro bolting, chipping holds and adding holds. Preserve climbs in the spirit of the first ascent.
- Sometimes unsafe or out-dated hardware may need replacement. Please check with the managing land agency before replacing or removing.

06



## SAFETY

- A helmet can save your life.
- Your safety is your responsibility. Climbing is a high-risk activity and rock can be unstable. Pay attention to the age and use of your equipment and use good judgment when climbing.
- Alert uninformed or new climbers to potential dangers. Resolve any emerging disputes in a civilized manner.
- Keep noise levels to a minimum to ensure that all climbers can communicate with each other. Proper climbing checks and calls ensure that climbers at a cliff base are less likely to be in danger from falling rocks and climbing equipment, like dropped gear and pulled ropes. Communication between lead climber and belayer is essential. Screaming and yelling indiscriminately by other persons is a distraction and may cause an accident.
- If you are climbing with kids, educate them about the dangers of playing too near the drop zone where climbing is occurring. If you have a portable crib, DO NOT set it up where any potential rock fall, climber fall, rope fall, etc. might occur.

07



## COMMERCIAL USE

A Commercial Use Permit is required if you conduct commercial, for-profit activities on public land. This includes guided outings, therapeutic activities, or other services rendered. Check with the managing land agency (NPS, BLM, State Parks, etc) for more information.