

# 2007 Climbing/Rappelling

## NATIONAL STANDARDS BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



These standards apply to council and district climbing/rappelling activities. *Climb On Safely*, No. 20-099B, applies to unit activities. *Topping Out*, No. 32007, is the Boy Scouts of America's manual of recommended climbing practices.

# 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards



These standards are designed to ensure a high degree of health and safety for participants and staff members engaged in climbing/rappelling programs operated by the Boy Scouts of America. Climbing/rappelling programs include natural rock sites, climbing/rappelling towers, vertical walls, horizontal walls, bouldering, portable facilities, bouldering facility and related programs. These standards apply to all local council and district climbing/rappelling activities where multiple units engage in the activity. Only programs that operate one week or more are required to be visited by a regional visitation team.

Equipment, facilities, staff qualifications, and training, as well as operation of the program, should be reviewed during the annual summer camp visitation. This inspection must be conducted by a trained regional climbing/rappelling inspector or Project COPE inspector. The Project COPE visitation team is empowered to inspect both climbing/rappelling and Project COPE facilities and activities. The climbing/rappelling site is also inspected annually by a climbing director and members of the council climbing committee. Climbing/rappelling program sites or facilities on council property that are not part of a summer camp operation must be inspected at least once a year by a trained climbing director or inspector from outside the BSA local council. A BSA regional visitation team submits written recommendations to the council identifying facilities, procedures, and instruction techniques that need to be changed.

Climbing/rappelling programs may be inspected at a time other than during the national resident camp visitation. The regions have trained climbing/rappelling or Project COPE inspectors who will inspect the programs.

All mandatory (M) standards must be met to operate a climbing/rappelling program. Any event or activity that does not meet one or more mandatory standards must be closed until compliance is achieved.

*Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual*, No. 32007 (available through the Supply Division), will serve as the reference for these standards. A section of National Camping School is offered for the climbing directors referred to in these standards.

Quality standards are desirable practices essential to a quality climbing/rappelling program.

The following items should be available to the visitation team.

1. Results of last inspection of the course and corrective action taken.
2. Log of the history of each rope and length of webbing used in the program.
3. Equipment record and inventory.
4. Reports of injuries and close calls involving participants in the climbing/rappelling program. These records should be kept for at least 15 years.
5. Maintenance checklist of facilities and equipment.
6. Proof of training of the climbing director and instructors.
7. Climbing/rappelling staff training plan.
8. Checklist of programs each instructor is qualified to lead.
9. Proof of training and CPR training of at least one climbing staff member.
10. Rules and safety procedures for each event.
11. Procedures for opening and concluding climbing/rappelling program sessions.
12. Emergency plan and procedures.
13. Inspection report on new facilities.
14. *Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual*, No. 32007.
15. Written policy to protect the climbing/rappelling site from degradation.
16. Copies of use agreements, hold harmless agreements, and certificate of liability insurance for outside organization use.
17. Written checklist for climbing/rappelling site and written safety orientation.

## Classes of Climbing/Rappelling Practices and Procedures

Several levels of climbing practices and procedures may apply in specific situations:

### Required

The *Climbing/Rappelling National Standards* are required for all council and district climbing/rappelling activities. The points of *Climb On Safely*, No. 20-099B, are required for all unit climbing/rappelling activities.

### Recommended

*Topping Out*, No. 32007, contains recommended practices and procedures for both council/district and unit climbing/rappelling activities. These have been determined to have a high degree of safety and are commonly used.

### Prohibited

A few climbing/rappelling practices and procedures are prohibited because they have been determined not to be safe; they are described in the *Climbing/Rappelling National Standards*, *Climb On Safely*, and *Topping Out*.

### Acceptable

Because there is such a variety of climbing/rappelling practices and procedures, some are simply acceptable—not required, recommended, or prohibited. Just because a practice is not described in *Topping Out* does not necessarily mean that it is not acceptable. The council's climbing committee chairperson should be consulted regarding climbing/rappelling practices and procedures that may be questionable.

## Summary of Changes in 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

The following changes have been made to these standards for 2007, as follows:

Standard **M3** specifies that constructed facilities must meet ACCT installation standards for belay cables and terminations, ground anchors, guy cables, beams, and poles, as well as applicable state and local laws.

A new standard 4 has been added and subsequent standards renumbered. It states that if mobile climbing walls are used, the following items have been considered, implemented, and documented: applicable state and local regulations, replacement frequency for cables and equipment, the facility is used only for its intended purpose, the manufacturer's recommendations are followed, applicable climbing and COPE standards are followed, and the facility is inspected before and after each period of use. This standard will become mandatory in 2008.

Standard **M5** (formerly standard **M4**) has been modified to state that each climbing/rappelling structure, including bouldering walls, vertical walls, and towers, must be inspected by a structural engineer or a professional challenge course builder, before initial use, within the last four years, and after any severe stress such as high winds or lightning. A written document must be available that is signed by the structural engineer or challenge course builder, indicating that in his or her opinion the facility is structurally suitable for its intended purpose. The standard has a new provision that will become mandatory in 2009: It is recommended that each climbing/rappelling structure be inspected by a structural engineer or a professional challenge course builder at least once every two years.

Standard 8 (formerly standard 7) has been modified to suggest that participants be knowledgeable in the principles of Leave No Trace where they are applicable to climbing/rappelling sites.

Standard **M9** (formerly standard **M8**) now specifies that a BSA-trained climbing director or a BSA-trained instructor who is at least 21 years of age (lead instructor), or a trained bouldering facilitator must supervise the climbing/rappelling or bouldering site, respectively.

Standard **M10** (formerly standard **M9**) states that a minimum of two climbing directors or instructors or bouldering facilitators must supervise any climbing/rappelling activity and be present during construction, operation, and dismantling of portable structures.

Standard **M11** (formerly standard **M10**) specifies that natural sites for climbing/rappelling on BSA property or used for council programs must be inspected twice a year by a climbing director.

A new standard **M20** has been added and subsequent standards renumbered. It reads: A staff member who supervises and facilitates bouldering facilities must be a climbing director or lead instructor or an adult bouldering facilitator (at least 21 years of age) who has been trained by a climbing director or lead instructor. Participants' feet must never be higher above ground than their shoulder height, and participants must not be allowed to climb over the bouldering facility. The type and length of training and the number of supervising staff is determined by the climbing director or lead instructor. Bouldering sites must have an appropriate shock-absorbing ground surface (see state or local playground regulations) and/or participants are to be properly spotted. See *Topping Out*, No. 32007.

The provision in standard **M23** (formerly standard **M21**) stating that installation of climbing bolts on BSA property must have council approval has been moved to become part of standard **M26** (formerly standard **M24**).

Standard **M27** (formerly standard **M25**) adds a reference to *Topping Out*, No. 32007, and has been modified to state that all climbing helmets must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or sooner if conditions warrant it. The seven-year limit for helmets was dropped.

Standard **M28** (formerly standard **M26**) now specifies that all cordage used for climbing (climbing ropes, accessory cord, and webbing) must be designed for climbing and used according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The standard also states that all dynamic climbing ropes must be UIAA- or CE-approved, and the use of three-strand rope is prohibited.

Standard **M29** (formerly standard **M27**) states that all cordage (climbing ropes, accessory cord, and webbing) must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations, but no more than five years from the date of purchase or sooner if conditions warrant. See *Topping Out*, No. 32007.

Standards **M42** and **M43** (formerly standard **M40**) have become separate standards. Standard **M42** specifies that the techniques of proper belaying and use of signals and equipment be explained, demonstrated, and practiced under safe conditions before participants are permitted to engage in climbing or rappelling. Standard **M43** specifies that participants be thoroughly trained in the proper use of specialized equipment such as a commercial or tied-seat harness, carabiners, belay and rappel devices, and climbing ropes before using them.

Standard **M44** (formerly standard **M41**) states that the on-site climbing director or lead instructor or bouldering facilitator determines if the safety of a participant might be compromised by conditions, staffing, weather, or any other factor, and is empowered to open or close the climbing program.

Standard **M50** (formerly standard **M47**) has changed. The new wording is as follows: Participants must be informed about the nature of the climbing experience and the physical exertion associated with it. See the appendix of *Topping Out*, No. 32007, for a suggested participant consent form. Participants must also comply with the BSA medical requirements and health screening process. For events less than 72 hours in duration, a Class I medical (health history) and a medical screening are required. The screener must be approved and coached in the medical screening process by a licensed health care practitioner. The climbing director, lead instructor, or bouldering facilitator reviews the results of the screening, personally interviews participants, and privately shares pertinent medical information with instructors about each participant before the participant engages in climbing/rappelling or bouldering activities.

Standard **M55** (formerly standard **M52**) adds that, when used to belay two persons, a rescue rope must be rated for a two-person load.

## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<b>I. PROGRAM SITE/FACILITY</b>			
<b>M1</b>	A climbing/rappelling facility on BSA property must be monitored or secured to prevent unauthorized use (disabled to a height of at least 12 feet or otherwise disabled). Warning signs must be posted at designated climbing/rappelling sites. Climbing and rappelling must be done with qualified supervision.		
<b>M2</b>	Climbing or rappelling at natural sites must be done on stable rock that is suitable for climbing and rappelling. Climbing and rappelling sites have been reviewed and approved by a climbing director. The climbing area has a designated place for onlookers that is outside the safety zone.		
<b>M3</b>	Constructed facilities must meet ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology, P.O. Box 47, Deerfield, IL 60015-0047; telephone 847-325-5860; fax 847-325-5864; Web site <a href="http://www.ACCTinfo.org">http://www.ACCTinfo.org</a> ; annual membership includes ACCT standards) installation standards for belay cables and terminations, ground anchors, guy cables, beams, and poles, as well as applicable state and local laws. Portable climbing/rappelling structures must be securely anchored and/or gayed, including mobile climbing facilities. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for using portable and mobile facilities, including automatic belay systems. Climbing/rappelling surfaces must not have protruding hardware, such as screws.		
4	If mobile climbing walls are used, the following items have been considered, implemented, and documented: applicable state and local regulations, replacement frequency for cables and equipment, the facility is used only for its intended purpose, the manufacturer's recommendations are followed, applicable climbing and COPE standards are followed, and the facility is inspected before and after each period of use. (This standard will become mandatory in 2008.)		
<b>M5</b>	<p><b>Each climbing/rappelling structure, including bouldering walls, vertical walls, and towers, must be inspected by a structural engineer or a professional challenge course builder before initial use, within the last four years, and after any severe stress such as high winds or lightning. A written document is available that has been signed by the structural engineer or challenge course builder indicating that in his or her opinion the facility is structurally suitable for its intended purpose.</b></p> <p>It is recommended that each climbing/rappelling structure be inspected by a structural engineer or a professional challenge course builder at least once every two years. This provision will become mandatory in 2009.</p>		
<b>M6</b>	The climbing/rappelling site is free of distractions from other program areas and from potential hazards such as dead snags, power lines, insects, vehicular traffic, and other identifiable hazards that could endanger climbers, belayers, rappellers, or onlookers. A well-planned trail system enables participants to walk safely to and from the climbing site.		
7	The climbing/rappelling site or facility has climbing routes that vary in difficulty to accommodate participants with different skill levels. See <i>Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual</i> , No. 32007.		

## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
8 A written policy is in place to protect a natural site from environmental degradation. Participants are knowledgeable in the principles of Leave No Trace where they are applicable to climbing/rappelling sites.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>II. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<p><b>M9</b> A BSA-trained climbing director or a BSA-trained instructor who is at least 21 years of age (lead instructor), or a trained bouldering facilitator must supervise the climbing/rappelling or bouldering site, respectively. A climbing director need not be present during climbing or rappelling activities, provided that an instructor who is at least 21 years of age (lead instructor) is present at the site. Each BSA climbing director and instructor has evidence of active instruction in climbing/rappelling at least once within the past six months or the last camping season. See <i>Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual</i>, No. 32007.</p> <p>Climbing director or lead instructor: _____</p> <p>Date of certificate of training: _____ Age: _____</p> <p>Each BSA local council that operates a climbing program must have a currently trained climbing director to give overall supervision to the council's climbing program.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M10</b> A minimum of two climbing directors or instructors or bouldering facilitators must supervise any climbing/rappelling activity and be present during construction, operation, and dismantling of portable structures. Each climbing director or instructor supervises no more than six participants, including adult leaders, in climbing or rappelling. The instructors must never leave participants unattended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M11</b> Natural sites for climbing/rappelling on BSA property or used for council programs must be inspected twice a year by a climbing director.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M12</b> Close calls (incidents that do not result in injury, but that reveal a potential safety problem), accidents, or injuries that occur during climbing/rappelling activities must be documented by the staff and periodically reviewed by the climbing director, program director, camp director, climbing committee, and council health and safety and/or risk management committee.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M13</b> A site-specific written maintenance checklist is used for all biannual (twice a year) inspections of facilities and equipment. A copy of this checklist should be kept with the climbing/rappelling records, the ranger's records, and the council's records.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>14 When possible, the program is made available to young people with disabilities. These participants are accompanied by adult leaders who are sensitive to the needs of youths with disabilities and familiar with the conditions and ability of the particular individuals. There is an appropriate ratio of instructors to participants with disabilities. See the appendix of <i>Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual</i>, No. 32007.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>15 An opportunity is provided for adult leaders to receive training in Climb On Safely.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M16</b> Other organizations or groups are permitted to use the camp climbing/rappelling site or facility only with a hold-harmless agreement, facility use agreement, and certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million. When the council operates the program, camp climbing equipment or approved</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
personal equipment must be used. When an outside organization operates the program, it must provide its own equipment and instructors.			
<b>III. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b>			
<p><b>M17</b> The climbing director must be at least 21 years of age, must be a currently registered member of the Boy Scouts of America, and must have successfully completed the Climbing section of BSA National Camping School within the last five camping seasons. Evidence of continuing, active instruction in climbing/rappelling at least once in the past year is available to the inspector. A Project COPE director may supervise a climbing tower.</p> <p>Director: _____</p> <p>Date of certificate of training: _____ Age: _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M18</b> Climbing instructors are at least 18 years of age, are currently registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, and hold a current certificate (within two years) of training as a BSA climbing instructor. A written instructor training plan, approved by the climbing director, has been developed.</p> <p>Instructor: _____</p> <p>Date of certificate of training: _____ Age: _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M19</b> All climbing instructors in training (IITs) must be at least 16 years of age, be currently registered members of the BSA, and have received training in climbing, rappelling, belaying, and spotting by a climbing director or instructor. When IITs assist participants, they must have been trained and be supervised by a climbing director or instructor at the site where they are being used. A climbing instructor may also train and supervise climbing IITs.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M20</b> A staff member who supervises and facilitates bouldering facilities must be a climbing director or lead instructor or an adult bouldering facilitator (at least 21 years of age) who has been trained by a climbing director or lead instructor. Participants' feet must never be higher above ground than their shoulder height, and participants must not be allowed to climb over the bouldering facility. The type and length of training and the number of supervising staff is determined by the climbing director or lead instructor. Bouldering sites must have an appropriate shock-absorbing ground surface (see state or local playground regulations) and/or participants are to be properly spotted. See <i>Topping Out</i>, No. 32007.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M21</b> At least one climbing staff member or one or more persons at the climbing/rappelling site must be currently trained in American Red Cross Standard First Aid (a 6½-hour course that includes CPR), or Level I National Safety Council First Aid, or the equivalent from another nationally or regionally recognized organization, and must be physically present in the immediate area whenever climbing or rappelling is done.</p> <p>In addition, if climbing/rappelling is done outside of resident camp, Wilderness First Aid Basic (a 16-hour course) or The American Red Cross Emergency Response (a 43½-hour course) is recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
CPR-trained staff member: _____ Date of training: _____ First aid-trained staff member: _____ Date of training: _____			
<b>IV. ANCHORS</b>			
<b>M22</b> All anchors must be fail-proof or backed up and the load distributed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M23</b> Bolts must be a minimum of 3/8-inch steel and suitable for climbing. UIAA-approved (International Union of Alpinists Association) or CE-approved (Community European Norm) hangers must be installed. The length of bolts is appropriate for the type of rock; 2½ inches is the minimum. Pitons are never used in BSA climbing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M24</b> Well-rooted, healthy trees or other living anchors may be used as anchor points in an anchor system. Trees must be at least 6 inches in diameter at the point of attachment. If used, a living anchor must be protected from damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M25</b> Anchor systems must have a strength of at least 22.2 kiloNewtons (5,000 pounds). (Webbing may be doubled to meet this standard.) Each belay anchor is placed to provide the most effective protection for both the climber and the belayer. The belayer's position allows for no slack between the belayer and the anchor point and is kept in direct line with a potential fall.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M26</b> Installation of climbing bolts on BSA property must have council approval. A written record is available indicating that anchor bolts and hangers on council property have been installed by a qualified individual who has training and/or experience in installing climbing bolts, and have been checked at least twice annually by the climbing director.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>V. PROGRAM EQUIPMENT</b>			
<b>M27</b> A UIAA- or CE-approved climbing helmet or a helmet that meets ASTM standards must be worn during all BSA climbing/rappelling activities where the participants' feet are more than their shoulder height above ground level. Each individual in the safety zone of a climbing or rappelling site also must also wear an approved rock-climbing helmet, and each rappeller must wear appropriate gloves. See <i>Topping Out</i> , No. 32007.  All climbing helmets must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or sooner if conditions warrant it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M28</b> All cordage used for climbing (climbing ropes, accessory cord, and webbing) must be designed for climbing and used according to the manufacturer's recommendations. All dynamic climbing ropes must be UIAA- or CE-approved. All static ropes used for rappelling must have a tensile strength (breaking strength) rating of at least 22.2 kilo-Newtons (5,000 pounds) when new. A diameter of 7/16 inch or 11 millimeters is recommended for static rappelling ropes; every climbing rope must have a minimum diameter of 10.5 millimeters. All ropes and nylon webbing must be new when procured. Use of three-strand rope is	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
prohibited. Webbing must be designed for climbing and must have a minimum breaking strength of 15.6 kiloNewtons (3,500 pounds) when new.			
<b>M29</b> A written log of the history of each rope used in the program must be kept, indicating: (1) the date the rope was purchased, (2) the number and type of participant uses and any unusual impacts, and (3) any environmental or severe stresses that were placed on the rope. Each rope must be uniquely marked and permanently identified. All webbing must be marked with the date of purchase. All cordage (climbing ropes, accessory cord, and webbing) must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations, but no more than five years from the date of purchase or sooner if conditions warrant. See <i>Topping Out</i> , No. 32007. It is recommended that the same rope always be used for the same application to learn what its life span is.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M30</b> All items of specialized equipment (carabiners, helmets, belay and rappel devices, webbing, rope, etc.) needed for conducting a safe program are available to the participants. Personal climbing/rappelling helmets, harnesses, and shoes must meet climbing equipment standards and be inspected and approved by the on-site director or lead instructor before use. Personal climbing/rappelling ropes, hardware, and webbing are not allowed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M31</b> A properly sized commercial climbing harness or a tied-seat harness made from at least 1-inch-wide webbing is required on all belayed activities. In addition, a chest harness or full-body harness must be used for participants whose body shape could allow them to slip out of a seat harness if inverted. Harnesses must be carefully inspected before each use and retired when damaged or excessively worn.  All climbing harnesses must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or no more than seven years from the date of purchase, or sooner if conditions warrant it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M32</b> An appropriate, commercially produced belay device attached with a locking carabiner is used for belaying. An appropriate, commercially made rappel device attached with a locking carabiner is used for rappelling. Brake bars on carabiners are prohibited. If rappel or brake racks are used, the climbing director and instructors must have the knowledge and experience to use them in a safe manner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M33</b> Equipment must be kept in locked, protective storage when not being used, away from exposure to heat, sunlight, chemicals, or destruction or contamination by animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M34</b> Climbing directors and instructors regularly inspect climbing/rappelling equipment and are taught how to inspect equipment for defects that render equipment unsafe for usage. Retired equipment is disposed of in such a way that it cannot be retrieved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M35</b> Written equipment records are kept that include a complete and current inventory; a record of date of purchase, issue and check-in; and a record of maintenance of facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>VI. PARTICIPANT PREREQUISITES</b>			
<b>M36</b> Climbing/rappelling equipment and activities must be age-appropriate and geared to the skill level of the participants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



## 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
Age-appropriate equipment and instruction is provided. See the <i>Climb On Safely Training Outline</i> , No. 20-101A, or <i>Age-Appropriate Guidelines</i> , No. 18-260.			
M37 Personal objects that could lead to injuries are removed before participants or staff members engage in climbing/rappelling activities. Long hair must be tied up and/or tucked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M38 No one is ever coerced or pressured into attempting any activity. A participant may be encouraged to take the next small step, but the final choice of participation and performance is left entirely up to the individual.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M39 Several warm-up activities are conducted at the beginning of each program session.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M40 A site and safety orientation is conducted for participants by an instructor or director before the climbing/rappelling activity. A written checklist is used to ensure that all points are covered during the orientation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M41 The technique of safe spotting is explained, demonstrated, and practiced before participants are permitted to engage in any activity requiring that skill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M42 The techniques of proper belaying and use of signals and equipment are explained, demonstrated, and practiced under safe conditions before participants are permitted to engage in climbing or rappelling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M43 Participants are thoroughly trained in the proper use of specialized equipment such as a commercial or tied-seat harness, carabiners, belay and rappel devices, and climbing ropes before using them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>VII. PROGRAM SAFETY PROCEDURES</b>			
M44 The on-site climbing director or lead instructor or bouldering facilitator determines if the safety of a participant might be compromised by conditions, staffing, weather, or any other factor, and is empowered to open or close the climbing program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M45 Written, site-specific rules and safety procedures are known and used by the climbing staff. See the <i>BSA Topping Out</i> , No. 32007.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M46 All climbing participants are top-roped. All rappelling participants are belayed. All participants rappelling on a single rope are belayed with an independent line.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M47 Participants must be belayed or anchored when climbing higher than shoulder height above the ground or in an elevated area where a fall could occur. Any time a belay is changed, procedures are in effect to ensure that a new belay or safety line is secured to the participant before a previous one is removed. Because of rope stretch, spotting must be in effect for climbers up to a height of 6 feet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M48 Procedures are in effect to check and double-check participant and staff knots, carabiners, and harnesses before each use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M49 Each participant is spotted with extreme care by a minimum of two spotters when bouldering. A boulderer's feet must go no higher than his or her shoulder height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards**  
(Conducted once a calendar year)

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<p><b>M50</b> Participants must be informed about the nature of the climbing experience and the physical exertion associated with it. See the appendix of <i>Topping Out</i>, No. 32007, for a suggested participant consent form. Participants must also comply with the BSA medical requirements and health screening process. For events less than 72 hours in duration, a Class I medical (health history) and a medical screening are required. The screener must be approved and coached in the medical screening process by a licensed health care practitioner.</p> <p>The climbing director, lead instructor, or bouldering facilitator reviews the results of the screening, personally interviews participants, and privately shares pertinent medical information with instructors about each participant before the participant engages in climbing/rappelling or bouldering activities.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M51</b> The climbing director and/or instructor, using a written checklist, must make a daily visual check of the facilities and equipment, including hardware, rope, and anchor points. Hazards identified during this inspection must be corrected before the activity is undertaken.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>VIII. FIRST-AID AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</b>			
<p><b>M52</b> Written, site-specific plans identifying possible emergencies, including rescues, and procedures for resolving them are reviewed with climbing staff members. Written, site-specific plans for emergency evacuations from climbing/rappelling sites are developed, and procedures are rehearsed annually by climbing staff members.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M53</b> A reliable means of electronic emergency communications is on-site during climbing/rappelling activities. In addition, a reliable backup emergency communications system is in place. This could be a runner if the distance to help or other more reliable method of communication is reasonable.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M54</b> Medical supplies appropriate for likely climbing injuries must be available at the climbing site. Medical supplies must be accessible to staff members when climbing/rappelling takes place.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M55</b> Equipment appropriate for rescue is available at the climbing/rappelling site when an activity is being conducted. It is used only for rescue and is color-coded or otherwise designated so that it can be distinguished from standard equipment used in the program. When used to belay two persons, a rescue rope must be rated for a two-person load.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2007 NATIONAL STANDARD RATING SCORESHEET FOR COUNCIL-OPERATED CLIMBING/RAPPELLING

This scoresheet is for use in conjunction with the 2007 Climbing/Rappelling National Standards to record the results of the course visitation. Send the results to the appropriate regional service center within five days of completing the on-site inspection.

This inspection was conducted for a program with  a climbing wall  a climbing tower  a portable facility  a natural site  
 a bouldering facility

Camp name \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Council name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Regional visitation team led by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name  
Scout executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**MANDATORY STANDARDS.** Failure to comply with any of these standards is cause to close the program or a particular part of the program. Circle the items that do not comply.

- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 5  | 6  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 |    |    |    |    |

**QUALITY STANDARDS.** Circle items that do not comply. Council climbing/rappelling programs must meet at least three of these five quality standards.

- 4    7    8    14    15

- Does the climbing/rappelling program comply with all mandatory standards? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- How many quality standards does the program comply with? Enter number. \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED program rating may be awarded if the answer to the mandatory standards is yes and the answer to the quality standards is three or more.

This program (does/does not) qualify as a nationally accredited climbing/rappelling program for the 2007 season.

This program is closed until significant deficiencies are corrected.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visitation team chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area director or regional representative

### Climbing/Rappelling Activities Closed

Name of Activity	Reason for Closure	Corrective Action Needed

**Have a photocopy of this form available for the resident camp inspection team.**



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
<http://www.scouting.org>