

BSA Climbing Instructor Training

May 3-5 (L1); and May 17-19 (L2)

hosted by the Del-Mar-Va Council, BSA

May 3-5, 2019: Level 1/Basics, tower operations; natural rock

May 17-19, 2019: Level 2/Advanced

Friday, 7 PM - Sunday, 5 PM

Cost: \$55 for Level 1; \$45 for Level 2 or \$100 total



Under the supervision of a Level 2 Climbing Instructor, Level 1 Climbing Instructors can teach Climbing Merit Badge, and instruct youth in climbing and rappelling on natural rock, climbing towers, or climbing gyms, under the BSA program. Del-Mar-Va Council Climbing Program Staff use Council-owned climbing equipment and facilities and some off-site natural rock sites and are covered under the BSA insurance program. The training can be renewed annually with ongoing participation in Council climbing activities. Level 1 Basics should be taken first; completion allows participation at Council owned climbing tower events. Level 1 Natural Rock Operations expands the participant's skills to include natural rock rigging and events. You must be 18 to be carded as a Level 1 Climbing Instructor, but youth 16 and over can be carded as a Level 1 Instructor in Training.



L2 Instructors learn additional techniques and organizational/operational skills and serve as event organizers (initially under the oversight of a more experienced Level 2 or a Climbing Director). Level 2 training is current for 3 years and can be renewed with continued participation. You must be 21 to be carded as a Level 2 Instructor.

Our instruction is all **skills based**. For this session, we are trying something new. We are collapsing training that would normally require 2 weekends into 1 weekend by asking all participants to thoroughly review the material on-line, in advance. This should help individuals with experience review the BSA requirements and help individuals with no experience spend as much time as needed in advance to learn the material. We don't expect you to become an expert by simply reading, but this should enable you to master the skills more quickly. Don't be intimidated by the quantity of material. We have provided a lot of information on the website. If you are new to climbing, you may need some additional hands-on time at climbing events to develop, demonstrate, and practice skills. But most of you will be able to achieve your L1 card for the Rodney Tower and for Rocks State Park by the conclusion of this training.

Cost: \$55 for L1; \$45 for Level 2; covers material costs, meals, facility and equipment use, and other supplies.

Registration: <http://www.delmarvacouncil.org/> If you are not already a registered member of BSA, you will need to complete a form at the first evening session and pay a **\$36 fee** to join. You will also need to bring a completed **BSA medical form** (doctor signature is not required-fill it out and attach a copy of your last physical exam from a physician). Click the link on the online registration page for this form or find it here: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf



Locations: The L1 Friday/Saturday session will be held at Camp Rodney near North East, MD, 400 Rodney Scout Road, North East, MD (driving directions at www.delmarvacouncil.org). Sunday, we'll travel to Rocks State Park (45 minutes west of Camp Rodney) for a session on natural rock. You will be able to depart for home from Rocks State Park around 5 pm.

Creature Comforts: Bunk in the cabin (bring your own pillow and sleeping bag) on Friday and Saturday night. We provide a "cracker barrel" type snack Friday evening, and a simple breakfast, lunch and dinner for Saturday. We will also provide breakfast and lunch for Sunday. We keep the food simple so we can spend more time climbing.

What to bring: All equipment is provided, but you may bring your own helmet, harness, and climbing shoes. Bring a hot beverage cup, 1 or 2 refillable water bottles, a short piece of climbing rope or accessory cord, and a length of 1" tubular webbing for knot practice if you have it (don't worry if you don't), and a pencil/pen. Be prepared for whatever weather we may have.

What You'll Learn:

- Equipment and cordage inspection, marking, care, storage and retirement;
- Climbing, rappelling, bouldering, spotting, belaying, and belay commands;
- Climbing knots (water knot, figure 8 follow-through, double fisherman's knot, Prusik, alpine butterfly, Munter hitch/mule knot) and how and when to use them;
- Anchoring systems and belay anchor construction for natural rock and for climbing towers;
- Good safety practices, including age-appropriate activity levels for youths;
- Leave No Trace policies for Climbing;
- BSA National Standards, teaching skills, climbing event planning and coordination, development of emergency plans, and climbing program record-keeping (Level 2);

Working ahead: You should study ahead by doing the following.

- Join the BSA Climbing site. An invitation to the site will be sent after you register.
- Start reading and studying the material in sequence listed under Level 1; especially knots.
- Get familiar with [Belay On](#). This is our climbing bible.
- Read the site specific information for Camp Rodney (separate topic) and for Rocks State Park.
- You aren't required to look at any topic labeled L2 (for the L1 training), but if you want more information, feel free to review any of this material.

Please use the website to ask questions. We will hold a few optional conference calls before the actual training, to answer any questions live. These calls will be scheduled after sign-ups are complete.

Other Questions? Contact Paul Harjung, DelMarVa Council Climbing Program Manager, 443-206-6161 (cell) or email at pharjung@gmail.com.