

Climbing Tower Rules

1. A Climbing Tower Attendant must be present to climb on our wall and a waiver must be signed for all participants. All participants must go through our safety orientation before participating in this area.
2. Belaying Policies:
 - a. All belayers MUST obtain a belay approval before utilizing belay skills. This approval must be noted and up to date on our Fusion computer system. Belayers must be at least 16 years of age.
 - b. Belayers must have their break hand on the rope at all times. No swapping hands on the brake rope.
3. All climbers must use proper equipment. WT Outdoors provides all necessary ropes, belay devices, and harnesses. All personal climbing equipment (aside from chalk) must be inspected and approved by the WT Rec Sports & Outdoors Director, GA, or Student Manager prior to use.
4. Only climbing shoes or closed-toed soft-soled shoes are permitted while climbing.
5. No horseplay or unsafe conduct is tolerated! Immediate removal and loss of future privileges may result!
6. Proper care of equipment is a must. Do not step on ropes, abuse carabiners and/or belay devices, or conduct yourself in an unsafe manner with the equipment. This includes never climbing faster than the auto belay.
7. Bouldering Policies:
 - a. Absolutely no climbing above bouldering height without being tied into a rope with a belayer, or attached to an auto belay system. This includes climbing on top of the Bouldering wall.
 - b. It is highly recommended that all bouldering be spotted. Bouldering cannot occur beneath or above another climber or without a crash pad. It is recommended to climb down off the boulder wall, rather than jumping.
8. Proper climbing procedures must be followed!
 - a. Knots, harness, and tie-in must be checked by the Attendant or approved belayer prior to climbing.
 - b. Only a figure 8 follow-thru knot can be used to tie-in a climber. About 4"-6" of tail is required.
 - c. Only a locking pear carabiner can be used to attach the belayer to the device/rope/climber.
 - d. Use proper commands and communication when climbing or belaying.
9. Problems such as accidents, injuries, blood exposure, loose holds, and equipment damage must be reported to the Climbing Tower Attendant immediately.
10. Tucking in loose clothing and using safety straps while wearing glasses is recommended.
11. The following jewelry is prohibited to be worn while climbing: rings, loose fitting jewelry, long necklaces or lanyards, and large hoop earrings. Climbers' pockets must be empty while climbing.
12. Be respectful to all participants. No offensive language is allowed.
13. No food or beverages are allowed in the climbing area, other than water.
14. No loose chalk. A chalk ball must be used in chalk bags. No bouldering with chalk bags attached to climber.
15. Only one headphone is permitted to be worn while climbing to ensure climber's safety. No over the ear headphones allowed.
16. Participants must be completely dry in order to climb or enter the Climbing Tower area.
17. Policies regarding minors:
 - a. Children under the age of 16 are only permitted to climb during the Academic Year on Saturdays and Sundays and must have both an appropriate waiver signed and Parent/Guardian supervision.
 - b. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to use chalk or the Hang Board.
18. *Climbing Tower Attendants have the right to remove a climber or participant for the day and recommend removal of climbing privileges for violation of these regulations.*

Lead Climbing Rules

1. Lead climbing or belaying requires a WT Outdoors lead climbing approval indicated and up to date in our Fusion computer system. The Climbing Tower Attendant will belay or monitor belaying of a lead climbing approved belayer. Practicing lead skills of any kind without lead approval is not allowed at any time, unless facilitated by a designated Lead Instructor. Lead climbing clinics are offered throughout each semester or upon request for lead climbing/belaying approval. Ask climbing tower staff for more information.
2. Only use the equipment provided by WT Outdoors while lead climbing and belaying. All other equipment must be approved by the WT Rec Sports Outdoor Director, GA, and/or Student Manager.
3. A Climbing Tower Attendant must be on duty to climb on the lead routes.
4. Climbers must not back-clip, z-clip, or skip draws while leading.
5. Climbers are not permitted to take intentional falls while lead climbing unless supervised and facilitated by a designated Lead Instructor.
6. When pulling the rope, give a verbal warning (e.g. yell "rope!")
7. Lead climbers and belayers must rotate use of the rope on either side between climbs to avoid inconsistent wear on the rope.
8. Abuse of lead climbing and belaying privileges or violation of any Lead Climbing Rules may result in the removal of said privileges.

