

## El Rancho Cima Climbing Towers

@ River Camp and Horse Shoe Bend

**Any unit wishing to use one of the two climbing towers must arrange for BSA qualified Climbing Instructors. El Rancho Cima does not provide the Instructors to run the tower.**

BSA recognizes 4 levels of Climbing Instructor:

- Director
- Level II Instructor
- Level I Instructor
- Instructor-in-Training (youth under age 18)

To operate a Council climbing tower, BSA requires (at minimum) a staff of two consisting of:

- One Director or Level II
- One Level I

The Level II/Director must be present at the tower site during all climbing and rappelling activities.

Instructors I and II will have attended a SHAC Topping Out program and hold an unexpired card. Directors are trained at National Camp School and will have an unexpired card.

The SHAC climbing committee will generally recognize Instructors I & II from Alamo Area Council, Capital Area Council, Circle 10 and Longhorn Councils, subject to reference from their respective council Climbing Committee Chairs.

Visiting Instructors and Directors must be "checked out" on SHAC Towers.

**If a unit does not have current Instructors or lacks a Level II instructor, the SHAC climbing committee will try to arrange for Instructors to support the event.**

- Climbing Instructors at SHAC are all volunteers. They donate their time, but have other commitments. Please give us ***as much notice as possible*** of your tower event.
- The unit should reimburse the Instructors for fuel and food. The cost for the Instructors to get there is not included in the fees paid to SHAC.

Any unit climbing at Cima should contact the Climbing Committee at [Climbing@Owoc.us](mailto:Climbing@Owoc.us). Please include the date of the activity, the number of youth and the number of adults, the name, email and cell phone of the adult coordinating the climbing activity.

The chart below is excerpted from the BSA Cope and Climbing Manual

Climbing Instructor In Training	none	COPE & Climbing Foundation Training + Climbing Level I Instructor Training	Yearly	16
Climbing Level I Instructor	none	COPE & Climbing Foundation Training + Climbing Level I Instructor Training	Yearly	18
Climbing Level II Instructor	Climbing Level I Instructor	Climbing Level II Instructor Training	3 years	21
Climbing Program Manager	Climbing Level II Instructor	NCS COPE & Climbing Program Manager Training	5 years	21
Climbing Training Program Evaluator	Climbing Level II Instructor	NCS Training Program Evaluator Training	5 years	21
Portable Climbing Wall Facilitator	none	Portable Climbing Wall Facilitator Training	Yearly	21
Bouldering Facilitator	none	Bouldering Facilitator Training	Yearly	16

Each council will define appropriate training for a “Portable Climbing Wall facilitator” using the manufacturers’ recommendations. This would include the number of hours of required training. The same is true for a “Bouldering Facilitator”.

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All COPE and climbing programs are operated according to the guidelines contained in the chart on page 4. All staff members may be considered as part of the staff to maintain the required ratio of staff to participants; however, instructors in training must be directly supervised by a Level I or Level II Instructor.

A Level II instructor directly supervises the program and must be present at the program site except for bouldering or portable climbing walls.

#### COPE & Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements

Program	Program Supervision Requirements	Qualified Staff	Min Staff	Ratio	Participant minimum age
Low COPE	Low COPE Level II Instructor or COPE Level II Instructor	Low COPE Level I Instructor, Low COPE Level II instructor, COPE IIT	2	12:1	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the Level II Instructor.
High COPE	COPE Level II Instructor	COPE Level II Instructor, COPE Level II instructor, COPE IIT	2	6:1	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the Level II Instructor.
Artificial Vertical Climbing Structure	COPE Level II Instructor or Climbing Level II Instructor	COPE Level I Instructor, COPE Level II Instructor, COPE IIT, Climbing Level I Instructor, Climbing Level II Instructor, Climbing IIT	2	6:1	Maturity evaluated by Level II Instructor
Natural Rock	Climbing Level II Instructor	Climbing Level I instructor, Climbing Level II Instructor, Climbing IIT	2	6:1	Maturity evaluated by Level II Instructor
Bouldering	Bouldering Facilitator or COPE Level I Instructor or Climbing Level I Instructor	COPE Level I Instructor, COPE Level II Instructor, COPE IIT, Climbing Level I Instructor, Climbing Level II Instructor, Climbing IIT	1	Determined by Council Policy	Maturity evaluated by facilitator
Portable Climbing Wall	Portable Climbing Wall Facilitator or COPE Level II Instructor or Climbing Level II Instructor	COPE Level I Instructor, COPE Level II Instructor, COPE IIT, Climbing Level I Instructor, Climbing Level II Instructor, Climbing IIT	2	Determined by Council Policy	Maturity evaluated by facilitator