

# 2011 Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling National Standards

These standards apply to council and district climbing/rappelling and Project COPE activities. *Climb On Safely*, No. 430-099, applies to single-unit activities. *Topping Out*, No. 32007, is the BSA's manual of recommended climbing practices. The *Project COPE* manual, No. 34371, is the BSA's guide for all high-course and low-course COPE activities. Current-year standards supersede any statements made in those resources.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## ***Summary of Changes***

The following is a summary of changes in these standards that are in effect for any 2011 Project COPE and climbing/rappelling activities. Please see the detailed standards within the body of this document.

**Standard M3** was altered to note that Leave No Trace principles are applied when applicable to Project COPE and/or climbing activities.

**Standard M12A** includes a list of Project COPE and climbing staff positions and an entry for the training date of each position.

**Standard M14** adds that participants may also be belayed with a Just-Right descender or MÜNTER hitch.

**Standard M16** clarifies when climbing harnesses must be used and retired.

**Standard M17** deletes the reference to three-strand (gold line) rope.

**Standard M18** clarifies when all cordage must be retired.

**Standard M28** adds that backup belayers are recommended.

**Standard M32** incorporates safe belaying methods in climbing and rappelling activities.

**Standard M39** clarifies first-aid safety at the program site.

**Standard MC/R5** on climbing/rappelling program administration was deleted and left blank to preserve the numerical sequence.

**Standard MC/R6** outlines regulations for bouldering participants.

**Standard MC/R7** on climbing/rappelling staff qualifications and training was deleted and left blank to preserve the numerical sequence.

**Standard MPC3** on Project COPE program administration was deleted and left blank to preserve the numerical sequence.

**Standard MPC4** on Project COPE staff qualifications and training was deleted and left blank to preserve the numerical sequence.

# 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

These standards are designed to ensure a high degree of health and safety for participants and staff members engaged in Project COPE and climbing/rappelling programs operated by the Boy Scouts of America. A COPE course is defined as any activity listed in the high-course events or low-course activities portions of the *Project COPE* manual, No. 34371. Qualified personnel should supervise all low-course and high-course activities listed in the guidebook. Climbing/rappelling programs include natural rock sites, boulders, climbing/rappelling towers, vertical walls, horizontal walls, portable facilities, and related programs. These standards apply to all use of council COPE facilities and to all climbing/rappelling activities organized by the council or district at any time during the year.

**COPE and climbing/rappelling equipment, staff qualifications, and training, as well as operation of the program, should be reviewed during the annual visitation, which must be conducted by an authorized COPE/climbing visitation specialist. COPE and climbing/rappelling program sites or facilities on council property that are not part of a summer camp operation must also be reviewed at least once a year by a regional COPE/climbing visitation specialist while they are in operation.**

All mandatory (M) standards must be met to operate Project COPE course elements or a climbing/rappelling program. Any event or activity that does not meet one or more mandatory standards must be closed until compliance is achieved. If one or more Project COPE elements do not meet the standards, it may be possible—without closing the entire course—to close those elements until they can meet the standards and be reopened by the council COPE/climbing committee.

The following items should be available to the visitation team.

	No.	Type of Records or Documentation	Standard(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Environmental Protection Policy	M3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Written policy to protect the climbing/rappelling and Project COPE sites from degradation.	M3
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Inspection report on new facilities.	M4
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Documentation of pole inspection if not part of builder inspection.	M4
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) standards available on the COPE site.	M4
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Documentation of the most recent professional challenge course builder inspection.	M4
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Results of the last council inspection of the course and corrective action taken.	M8
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Maintenance checklist of facilities and equipment, including new installation and reconfiguration.	M8
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Reports of incidents and injuries involving participants in the COPE and climbing/rappelling program.	M9
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Copies of use agreements, hold-harmless agreements, and certificates of liability for outside organization use.	M10
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Climbing/rappelling and Project COPE staff training plans.	M11
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Proof of training of each climbing director and instructor and each Project COPE director and instructor.	M12A
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Log of the history of each rope used in the climbing/rappelling program.	M18
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Equipment records and inventory, helmets, rope, webbing, and harnesses.	M19
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Written checklist for climbing/rappelling and Project COPE safety orientation.	M24
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Rules and safety procedures for each Project COPE event.	M31
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Procedures for opening and concluding a COPE program session.	M31
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Written checklist for visual inspection of climbing/rappelling and Project COPE sites.	M34
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Emergency plan procedures.	M37
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Proof of first-aid training and CPR training of at least one climbing/rappelling and Project COPE staff member.	M39
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Documentation showing compliance with state and local regulations, replacement frequency for auto-belay cables and equipment, and proper anchoring for wind resistance for portable climbing walls.	MC/R2
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Documentation 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 that they have been checked at least twice annually by the climbing director.	MC/R10
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Document verifying that trees used for COPE elements have been inspected by a certified arborist or professional forester.	MPC1
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Written approval from Outdoor Programs of any new element not in the <i>Project COPE</i> manual.	MPC2

## Classes of Project COPE Practices and Procedures

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

### Required

The *Project COPE National Standards* are required for all council and district challenge course activities.

### Recommended

The *Project COPE* manual, No. 34371, contains recommended practices and procedures for council/district challenge course activities. These have been determined to have a high degree of safety and are commonly used.

### Prohibited

A few challenge course practices and procedures are prohibited because they have been determined not to be safe; they are described in the *Project COPE National Standards* and the *Project COPE* manual.

### Acceptable

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

## COPE/Climbing Staff Member Qualifications and Training (Standard M12A)

This chart replaces the individual standards that referenced staff qualifications.

Staff Member	Primary Training	Min. Age	Annual Emergency Training
Committee chair	National Camping School—COPE or Climbing (retraining every five years)	21	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
COPE director	National Camping School (retraining every five years)	21	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
Low COPE director	National Camping School (retraining every five years)	21	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures
COPE instructor	Council COPE Instructor Training (retraining every two years)	18	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
COPE instructor in training	Council COPE Instructor Training (retraining every two years)	16	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
Climbing director	National Camping School (retraining every five years)	21	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
Climbing lead instructor	Council Climbing Instructor Training (retraining every two years)	21	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
Climbing instructor	Council Climbing Instructor Training (retraining every two years)	18	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution
Bouldering facilitator	Council Bouldering Facilitator Training (retraining every two years)	18	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures
Climbing instructor in training	Council Climbing Instructor Training (retraining every two years)	16	Site-Specific Emergency Procedures and Incident Resolution

## COPE/Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements (Standard M12B)

Program	Staff Requirements	Min. Staff	Ratio	CPR and First Aid	Participant Minimum Age
Low COPE	COPE director*, Low COPE director*, COPE instructor, COPE instructor in training	2	12:1	Recommend ***	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the director.
High COPE	COPE director*, COPE instructor, COPE instructor in training	2	6:1	Recommend ***	Generally age 13 or older. Younger participants may take part in events that match their maturity level as determined by the director.
Artificial Vertical Climbing Structure****	Climbing director**, climbing lead instructor**, climbing instructor, climbing instructor in training, COPE director	2	6:1	Recommend ***	Maturity evaluated by the director
Bouldering	Climbing director, climbing lead instructor, climbing instructor, bouldering facilitator, climbing instructor in training	2	Determined by director	Recommend ***	Maturity evaluated by the director
Natural rock	Climbing director**, climbing lead instructor**, climbing instructor, climbing instructor in training	2	6:1	Recommend ***	Maturity evaluated by the director

\*The director must be present during program operation.

\*\*The director or lead instructor must be present during program operation. COPE directors may operate climbing towers only as a part of a COPE program; they are not trained to provide climbing courses.

\*\*\*See standard M39 for CPR/first-aid requirements during program operation.

\*\*\*\*Artificial vertical climbing surfaces are constructed climbing facilities such as climbing towers and artificial climbing walls (both indoor and outdoor).

# 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
<b>PROGRAM SITES</b>						
<b>M1</b> Program sites on council property are located where access is controlled or monitored when the site is not in use. High-course or climbing structures are disabled to a height of at least 12 feet. Warning signs are posted at the program sites.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M2</b> Activity sites are free of distractions from other program areas and from potential hazards such as power lines, vehicular traffic, and exposed ridges. These sites are also free of other identifiable hazards, such as dead limbs and snags, that could endanger participants, staff members, or onlookers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M3</b> A written policy is followed to protect the program site from environmental degradation. A well-planned, well-constructed, and well-maintained trail system is used. Leave No Trace principles are applied where they are applicable to Project COPE and/or climbing activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM FACILITIES</b>						
<b>M4</b> Constructed facilities must meet applicable Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) installation standards or Climbing Wall Association (CWA) design and engineering standards as well as any state and local laws. All constructed facilities are inspected by a qualified professional challenge course builder* (or structural engineer for constructed climbing facilities to verify compliance with design standards) before initial use; after any significant stress, such as lightning, high winds, falling objects, etc.; and at least once every two years. Closed elements must be inspected and approved by the council COPE/climbing committee and must conform to ACCT standards (or CWA standards for towers and climbing walls) before being reopened for use. A copy of the current ACCT standards is available at the program site. Bouldering walls may be inspected by the local council. Written documentation of inspections is available for review.  <i>*Note: A challenge course builder is considered to be a qualified professional if they are accredited by a professional organization (e.g., ACCT PVM). For inspectors without such accreditation, councils should obtain documentation that 50 percent of the organization's staff time is spent providing challenge course installation and/or inspection services. This documentation should be available for review at the annual BSA visitation.</i>  Date of last professional inspection: _____ Professional challenge course builder: _____ Date of bouldering wall inspection: _____ Bouldering wall inspector: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M5</b> Trees used to anchor COPE element cables are at least 8 inches in diameter at the point of attachment of cable terminations. Trees used as anchor points in a climbing anchor system must be well-rooted, healthy and at least 6 inches in diameter at the point of attachment, and protected from damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>						
<b>M6</b> If programs are conducted for groups with special needs, adult leaders familiar with the conditions and abilities of the group are included in an appropriate ratio for the group size.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
<p><b>M7</b> A currently trained Project COPE director or climbing director chairs the council COPE/climbing committee. A National Camping School-trained counterpart (COPE or climbing director) also serves on the committee if both programs are offered. At least one member of the council COPE/climbing committee is a member of the ACCT. Councils may elect to have separate COPE and climbing committees, which must be chaired by the appropriate National Camping School-trained director.</p> <p>A climbing director must chair the climbing committee, and a COPE director must chair the COPE committee; however, a single committee may administer both programs. Combined committees must have both a climbing and COPE director as members with one of them serving as chair.</p> <p>COPE director or Low COPE director: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Committee chair    <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member</p> <p>Climbing director: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Committee chair    <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member</p> <p>At least one committee member must be a member of ACCT. Name of member _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M8</b> A site-specific written maintenance checklist of facilities and equipment is used for the council COPE/climbing committee inspection and is available to the regional BSA COPE/climbing visitation team. A record of these inspections should be kept with the COPE and climbing records, the ranger's records, and the council's records. The COPE course and/or climbing area (natural and/or constructed) is inspected before and after peak season usage by a trained Project COPE director (COPE) and/or climbing director (climbing) and members of the council COPE/climbing committee that submits written recommendations to the council, and once by a BSA regional COPE/climbing visitation team. The council schedules, completes, and documents facility additions, repairs, and maintenance based on these recommendations. Council inspection dates:</p> <p>1. COPE: _____ Climbing: _____</p> <p>2. COPE: _____ Climbing: _____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M9</b> Incidents that do not result in injury but that reveal a potential safety problem, accidents, or injuries that occur during Project COPE or climbing activities must be documented by staff members and periodically reviewed by the COPE/climbing director, program director, camp director, Project COPE/climbing committee, and council health and safety and/or risk management committees. These records must be maintained according to the council's retention policy. A written action plan is developed with steps to be taken to reduce the potential for recurrence. Records should be available to the regional COPE/climbing visitation team.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>M10</b> Other organizations or groups are permitted to use the council's COPE and climbing facilities only with a hold-harmless agreement, facility-use agreement, and certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$2 million. When the council operates the climbing program, camp climbing equipment or approved personal equipment must be used. When an outside organization operates the climbing program, it must provide its own equipment and instructors. Other organizations or groups are permitted to use the COPE course and equipment only while under the supervision of a project COPE director (or low-course director for low-course elements only).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b>						
<p><b>M11</b> A written staff training plan has been implemented for the council's Project COPE and/or climbing program.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
<b>M12A</b> All Project COPE and climbing staff are registered members of the BSA, have evidence of continued active participation within the past 12 months, and have appropriate qualifications and training as shown on the chart on page 4. Bouldering facilitator: _____ Date of training: _____  Climbing director: _____ Date of certificate of training: _____  Climbing lead instructor: _____ Date of certificate of training: _____  COPE Director: _____ Level of training: <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Low-course director Date of training: _____ Age: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M12B</b> All COPE and climbing programs are operated according to the guidelines contained in the chart on page 4. All staff members listed 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 an adult staff member.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM EQUIPMENT</b>						
<b>M13</b> All specialized equipment (carabiners, helmets, belay and rappel devices, webbing, ropes, etc.) needed for conducting a safe Project COPE and/or climbing program must be available to participants and staff members. Personal climbing helmets, harnesses, and shoes may be used if inspected and approved by the on-site director/instructor and if they meet ACCT and/or BSA equipment standards. Personal climbing/rappelling ropes, hardware, and webbing are not allowed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M14</b> An appropriate, commercially produced belay device attached with a locking carabiner is used for belaying. Participants may also be belayed with a Just-Right descender or Mnter hitch. An appropriate commercially produced rappel device attached with a locking carabiner is used for rappelling. Brake bars on carabiners are prohibited. If a rappel or brake rack, Mnter hitch, or Just-Right descender is used, the director and instructors must have the knowledge and experience to use them safely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M15</b> Each participant and staff member in the fall zone of a climbing/rappelling site or Project COPE high-course site must wear a UIAA- or CE-approved rock-climbing helmet. All climbing helmets must be retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations, or sooner if conditions warrant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M16</b> A properly sized commercially produced climbing harness or a tied-seat harness made from webbing at least 1 inch wide is required on all belayed activities. In addition, a chest or full-body harness must be used for events where the participant might become inverted. Harnesses must be carefully inspected before each use and retired when damaged or excessively worn. All climbing harnesses must be used and retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations or seven years from the date of purchase or when condition warrants, whichever comes first.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
<b>M17</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 ropes must be UIAA- or CE-approved. All static ropes must have a tensile strength (breaking strength) rating of at least 22.2 kiloNewtons (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. Three-strand (multiline) rope 1/2 inch or larger in diameter may be used for lobster claws and hand lines. Webbing must be designed for climbing and must have a minimum breaking strength of 17.5 kiloNewtons (4,000 pounds) when new.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M18</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 date the rope was placed in service, and (3) any environmental, severe, or unusual 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 or when condition warrants or five years from the date placed into service or 10 years from the date of purchase, whichever comes first.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M19</b> Written equipment records are kept that include a complete and current inventory.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M20</b> Staff members inspect all program equipment before and after each use and are taught how to inspect equipment for defects that render equipment unsafe for usage. Disposal of retired equipment is done in such a way that it cannot be retrieved.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M21</b> When not being used, equipment must be kept in locked, protected storage, away from exposure to sunlight, heat, excessive moisture, chemicals, or destruction or contamination by animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M22</b> When in contact with steel cable, only locking steel carabiners, pulleys with steel sheaves, or steel rapid links suitable for climbing are used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS</b>						
<b>M23</b> All participants who are members of the Boy Scouts of America must use the current Annual Health and Medical Record (No. 34605) and follow the council's established medical screening procedures. For non-Scout groups, a medical health history/informed consent form (Challenge Course and Climbing/Rappelling Health History and Consent Form) is required for all participants. Participants should be asked to relate any recent injuries or illnesses to the COPE/climbing director/instructor before participating. The COPE/climbing director/instructor will accommodate needs based on the medical or physical situation. All supervision, discipline, and protections should be adjusted to anticipate any potential risks associated with individual health conditions. For significant health concerns, an examination by a physician and consultation with parent/guardian is appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM SAFETY</b>						
<b>M24</b> An instructor or director conducts a site and safety orientation for participants before the program activity. A written checklist is used to ensure that all points are covered during the orientation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M25</b> No participant 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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
M26 Several warm-up activities are conducted at the beginning of each program session.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M27 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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M28 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 any activity requiring those skills. Backup belayers are recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M29 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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M30 The Project COPE or climbing/rappelling program site supervisor determines if a participant's safety might be compromised by course conditions, staffing, weather, or any other factor, and is empowered to open and close the COPE or climbing/rappelling program. Staff members are trained to monitor environmental conditions and their effect on participants during challenging activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M31 The program staff knows and uses written site-specific rules for opening and closing the program site and safety procedures used for each event or activity. This includes detailed information for disabling or dismantling towers or high-course events when not in use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M32 All participants are top-roped when climbing. Participants on high-event traversing elements may be static belayed on overhead belay cables. All rappelling participants are belayed. Recommended belaying methods are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-line rappel with an independent belay line</li> <li>• Double-line rappel with an independent belay line</li> <li>• Independently anchored double-line rappel with a fireman's belay</li> </ul> Releasable rappel lines are recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M33 Only trained Project COPE/climbing staff may climb using lobster claws (or similar tether system) to self-belay above the anchor, such as during a staple climb, rope grab, or cable grab. A load-limiting or fall-arresting device must be used in situations where there is little or no energy absorption inherent in the belay system. Webbing or lanyards used for self-protection must have a breaking strength of at least 22.2 kiloNewtons (5,000 pounds) when new.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M34 The 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M35 Participants must be belayed or anchored when climbing higher than their shoulder height above the ground (except for two low-course elements: The Wall and The Beam) 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. Each participant must be spotted when bouldering or participating in low-course events and up to shoulder height above ground level for high-course events and climbing sites.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M36 Participant and staff knots, carabiners, and harnesses are double-checked before each use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Standard	COPE			Climbing		
	Yes	No	Comments	Yes	No	Comments
<b>FIRST AID AND EMERGENCIES</b>						
<b>M37</b> Written, site-specific plans identifying possible emergencies, including rescues, and procedures for resolving them are reviewed with program staff members. Written, site-specific plans for emergency evacuations from program sites are developed, and procedures are rehearsed annually by program staff members.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M38</b> A reliable means of electronic emergency communications is available during program activities. In addition, a reliable backup emergency communications system is in place. This could be a runner if the distance to help is reasonable or another more reliable method of communication is unavailable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M39</b> At least one responsible adult at the program site must be designated as the medical staff member and be currently trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and physically present whenever the program is in operation. Program sites located on BSA property must allow emergency evacuation in a reasonable length of time. If emergency evacuation is more than 30 minutes by ground transportation, then a designated responsible adult trained to a minimum level of wilderness first aid (16 hours) must be present on the program site. CPR-trained staff member: _____ Date of training: _____ First aid-trained staff member: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FA <input type="checkbox"/> WFA Date of training: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M40</b> Medical supplies appropriate for likely injuries must be available at the program site. Medical supplies must be accessible to staff members when the program is in operation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>M41</b> Rescue equipment appropriate for likely course emergencies is accessible at the program site when the program is in operation. When used to belay two people, a rescue rope must be rated for a two-person load.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>CLIMBING/RAPPELLING STANDARDS (C/R = climbing and rappelling)</b>			
Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<b>PROGRAM SITES</b>			
<b>MC/R1</b> Climbing or rappelling at natural sites is done on stable rock that is suitable for climbing and rappelling. The climbing area has a designated place for onlookers that is outside the fall zone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM FACILITIES</b>			
<b>MC/R2</b> If mobile climbing walls are used, the following items have been documented: compliance with state and local regulations, replacement frequency for auto-belay cables and equipment, and proper anchoring for wind resistance. The manufacturer's recommendations and applicable climbing standards are followed, and the facility is inspected before and after each use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>MC/R3</b> The climbing/rappelling site or facility has climbing routes that vary in difficulty to accommodate participants with different skill levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>C/R4</b> If private or public property is used for council climbing/rappelling programs, written permission from the landowner/manager for climbing/rappelling activities is available for review.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<b>MC/R5</b> is intentionally left blank to maintain numerical sequence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>MC/R6</b> Bouldering participants' feet above ground must never be higher than their shoulder height, and participants must not be allowed to climb over the top of the bouldering facility.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<b>STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b>			
MC/R7 is intentionally left blank to maintain numerical sequence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ANCHORS</b>			
MC/R8 All anchors must be fail-proof or backed up and the load equalized. Anchors are placed to provide the most effective protection for both the climber and the belayer. For all locations, 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"/>	
MC/R9 Bolts and hangers must be manufactured specifically for climbing purposes. The length of bolts is appropriate for the type of rock; 2 1/2 inches total length is the minimum, 3 inches for limestone. Pitons are never used in BSA climbing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MC/R10 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.  Date of inspection: 1. _____ 2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS</b>			
MC/R11 Climbing/rappelling equipment, instruction, and activities must be age-appropriate and geared to the skill level of the participants. See Age-Appropriate Guidelines, No. 18-260.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROJECT COPE STANDARDS (PC = Project COPE)</b>			
Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<b>PROGRAM SITES</b>			
MPC1 A document is on file verifying that trees used on the Project COPE course have been inspected within the past two years by a certified arborist or professional forester. This inspection will verify or assure that all trees used on the COPE course are appropriate for their use, sound, and free from disease or other conditions that might weaken them. Trees that are determined to be unsuitable are not used.  Date of last inspection: _____ Arborist/forester: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM FACILITIES</b>			
MPC2 Any low- or high-course element that is not listed in the most current versions of the Project COPE manual or Project COPE/Climbing standards must be approved by the COPE/Climbing Task Force prior to installation. Any high- or low-course element proposed should serve an objective not being met in the Project COPE manual and must be designed to provide spotting or belay access. A description of the event and a detailed sketch must have been filed with Outdoor Programs, S250 at the BSA national office, and a written record of approval received and available for review by Project COPE visitors. Note: New elements approved will be added to the list of approved elements in the standards each year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>			
MPC3 is intentionally left blank to maintain numerical sequence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2011 National Project COPE and Climbing/Rappelling Standards

Standard	Yes	No	Comments
<b>STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b>			
<b>MPC4</b> is intentionally left blank to maintain numerical sequence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ANCHORS</b>			
<b>MPC5</b> Each belay anchor is placed to provide the most effective protection for the climber, as well as for the belayer. Movable belays are required for all traversing events. Where a ground belay anchor or belay cable is used, 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>PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS</b>			
<b>MPC6</b> Based on their maturity and physical coordination, participants younger than 13 years of age may undertake a few low-course activities and high-course events at the discretion of the Project COPE director. Participants are allowed to engage in progressively more challenging activities, depending upon their successful completion of less challenging ones. Project COPE directors, low-course directors, and instructors should recognize that younger participants may not get the full value of the COPE experience. A high level of maturity is needed for Project COPE events that require spotting or belaying so that participants are able to understand the safety implications of the experience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 2011 National Standards Rating Scoresheet for Council-Operated Climbing/Rappelling and Project COPE Sites

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

This inspection was conducted for the following climbing/rappelling and/or Project COPE programs:

- Climbing wall       Climbing tower       Portable climbing facility  
 Natural climbing site       Bouldering facility       Indoor climbing wall  
 Project COPE course with \_\_\_\_\_ low-course elements and \_\_\_\_\_ high-course elements.  
(number of) (number of)

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

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

Regional visitation team led by

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

Scout executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
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  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12A | 12B |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 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 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |

**Mandatory Climbing/Rappelling Standards.** C/R1 C/R2 C/R3 C/R5 C/R6 C/R7 C/R8 C/R9 C/R10 C/R11

**Quality Climbing/Rappelling Standard.** C/R4

**Mandatory Project COPE Standards.** PC1 PC2 PC3 PC4 PC5 PC6

Does the COPE course comply with all mandatory standards? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Does the climbing/rappelling program comply with all mandatory standards? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**NATIONALLY ACCREDITED** rating may be awarded if the answer to the mandatory standards is yes.

Project COPE  does  does not qualify  N/A as a nationally accredited course for the 2011 season.

This course was closed until significant deficiencies are corrected.

Climbing/rappelling program  does  does not qualify  N/A as a nationally accredited climbing/rappelling program for the 2011 season.

This program was closed until significant deficiencies are corrected.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visitation team chair Area director or regional representative

### Events Closed

Name of Activity	Reason for Closure	Corrective Action Needed

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

## Approved Project COPE Activities

Councils developing new Project COPE courses may use any of these events.

### Low-Course Activities

Artesian Beams  
The Beam  
Blind Maze  
Cable Traverse  
Criss Cross  
Drop Zone (Frog Jump)  
Islands  
Mohawk Walk  
Nitro Crossing  
Porthole  
Spider Web  
Swinging Log  
Tire on Pole  
Tire Traverse  
Track Walk  
Triangle Traverse  
The Wall  
Water Wheel  
(Meat Grinder)  
Whale Watcher  
Wild Woosey

### High-Course Events

Balance Beam  
Burma Bridge  
Cargo Net  
Caving Ladder  
Centipede  
Commando Rope Climb  
Confidence Pole  
Flying Squirrel  
Gap Step  
Giant's Ladder  
Giant Swing  
High Beam  
Multivine Traverse  
Mush Line  
Pirate's Crossing  
Plank Walk  
Rappel Line  
Rope Climb  
Sky Walk  
Slack Line Traverse  
Tower (for activity only, not  
merit badge instruction)  
Tremor Bridge  
Two-Wire Traverse  
Vertical Playground  
Zip Wire/Canopy Tour

## ACCT Professional Vendor Members

A Professional Vendor Member of ACCT is a company that has successfully completed the ACCT Professional Vendor Member application and review process to ensure it complies with ACCT Standards. Level 3 Professional Vendor Members provide challenge course installations, safety inspections, and/or facilitator training services. Level 4 Professional Vendor Members provide the same services, and have been Level 3 members for a minimum of three years.

Current lists of Level 3 and Level 4 Professional Vendor Members are available from ACCT.

### **Association for Challenge Course Technology**

P. O. Box 47

Deerfield, IL 60015

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Fax: 847-325-5864

Website: <http://www.acctinfo.org>



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