

DOK's Tower
COVID Plan for Lost Pines Scout Reservation

Dok's Tower use during COVID-19 pandemic

Overview:

This document covers additional precautions related to COVID-19 and does not replace or supplement any existing COPE or Climbing procedures or requirements. Procedures are for DOK's tower, the pavilion connected to DOK's tower, and the COPE area.

These procedures are designed to reduce potential exposure and cannot eliminate all potential risks. The procedures should be shared with participants and their legal guardian (as appropriate) so they can make an informed decision about participation.

Face Masks:

Anyone in the climbing area, cope area, or climbing pavilion will wear a mask that meets current CDC/BSA guidance. Masks will be worn except when eating or lowered temporarily for drinking. Social separation should be increased when eating or drinking. Masks will be worn throughout the activities (climb, rappel, and belay) by climbing instructors and participants.

Additional Safety Precautions/Procedures:

The number of participants should be limited to a reasonable number that can accommodate social distancing.

Climbing tower use, in addition to all existing tower procedures:

- Climbing helmets and gloves will be assigned to each individual and not used by anyone else for a period of 72 hours. Exceptions can be made for participants from the same household at the discretion of the event lead and COVID Safety Officer. [for summer camp helmets should be cleaned following manufacturer's guidelines at the end of the week and allowed to air dry, the waiting period can be reduced to 48 hours].
- Size of climbing event must be less than the number of unique climbing helmets that are available.

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- No modifications are being made to tower safety procedures. Helmets and harnesses must be worn while in the climbing area. Face shields are not required and are prohibited if they interfere with proper fitting of helmet or safety process.
- Participants may not enter the gear room. Climbing instructors will retrieve gear and place gear in an open area in the pavilion for participants.
- No more than 2 climbing instructors may be in the gear room at once.
- Participants are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after each climb and rappel. Participants will wear climbing gloves while rappelling.
- Participant contact with shared gear (ropes, carabiners, webbing, safety lanyards, and friction control devices) should be minimized. Most handling of shared gear will be done by climbing instructors.
- Belayers will be required to wear full fingered gloves and use hand sanitizer at the start and conclusion of the set of belaying they do.
- Climbing tower and climbing holds will not be sanitized.
- When working with ropes, individuals will wear climbing gloves. Individuals will use hand sanitizer before and after putting on climbing gloves. Multiple ropes will be used to reduce the number of people using the same rope, but no sanitization of the rope itself will be done.

Climbing. Participants are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after any climbs and will wear face masks during the climb. No more than 4 people will be involved in any climb (at the wall or at belay station) at a time. The 4 roles are 1) a climbing director/instructor observing and providing any needed safety checks or training refresher while maintaining social distance; 2) belayer getting hands on experience in belaying and getting a climber ready; 3) back up belayer socially distant from belayer; 4) participant/climber. Role 2 and 4 will have 30 seconds to a minute where social distancing is not possible. This will be in open air, masks will be worn, and the time frame kept as short as reasonable.

Rappelling. No more than 3 people will be near the rappel window at the same time. The 3 roles are 1) a climbing director/instructor observing and providing any needed safety checks; 2) climbing instructor setting up rappeler; and 3) rappeler. Role 2 and 3 will have a minute or two where social distancing is not possible. This will be in open air, masks will be worn, and the time frame kept as short as reasonable.

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Other equipment. To the extent possible, participants will not share carabiners, figure 8 rappel devices, and friction control devices.

Personal gear: Participants may bring their own approved gear. Personal gear should not be shared with other participants. Exceptions can be made for participants from the same household at the discretion of the event lead and COVID Safety Officer.

Natural Area gear use during COVID-19 pandemic

These procedures are designed to reduce potential exposure and cannot eliminate all potential risks. The procedures should be shared with participants and their legal guardian (as appropriate) so they can make an informed decision about participation.

- Face masks are encouraged, even in the outdoor environment, to reduce exposure for the brief periods of time when close contact is required.
- The number of participants should be limited to a reasonable number that can accommodate social distancing.
- Climbing helmets and gloves will be assigned to each individual and not used by anyone else for a period of 72 hours. Exceptions can be made for participants from the same household at the discretion of the event lead.
- Size of climbing event must be less than the number of unique climbing helmets that are available.
- Face shields are not required and are prohibited if they interfere with proper fitting of helmet or safety process.
- Participants are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after each climb and rappel. Participants will wear climbing gloves while rappelling.
- Participant contact with shared gear (ropes, carabiners, webbing, safety lanyards, and friction control devices) should be minimized. Most handling of shared gear will be done by climbing instructors.

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- Belayers will be required to wear full fingered gloves and use hand sanitizer at the start and conclusion of the set of belaying they do.

- When working with ropes, individuals will wear climbing gloves. Individuals will use hand sanitizer before and after putting on climbing gloves. No sanitization of the rope will be done.

Climbing. Participants are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after any climbs. No more than 4 people will be involved in any climb (at the wall or at belay station) at a time. The 4 roles are 1) a climbing director/instructor observing and providing any needed safety checks or training refresher while maintaining social distance; 2) belayer getting hands on experience in belaying and getting a climber ready; 3) back up belayer socially distant from belayer; 4) participant/climber. Role 2 and 4 will have 30 seconds to a minute where social distancing is not possible. This will be in open air, masks will be worn, and the time frame kept as short as reasonable.

Rappelling. No more than 3 people will be near the rappel area at the same time. The 3 roles are 1) a climbing director/instructor observing and providing any needed safety checks; 2) climbing instructor setting up rappeler; and 3) rappeler. Role 2 and 3 will have a minute or two where social distancing is not possible. This will be in open air, masks will be worn, and the time frame kept as short as reasonable.

Other equipment. To the extent possible, participants will not share carabiners, figure 8 rappel devices, and friction control devices.

Personal gear: Participants may bring their own approved gear. Personal gear should not be shared with other participants. Exceptions can be made for participants from the same household at the discretion of the event lead and COVID Safety Officer.