

CHALLENGE COURSES

RELEVANT REGULATIONS AND RESOURCES

Challenges Unlimited <www.challengesunlimited.com>
Adventure Works Associates Inc. <www.adventureworks.org>
Association for Challenge Course Technology (A.C.C.T.) <www.acctinfo.org>
Climbing Wall Association <www.climbingwall.org>

GENERAL NOTES

A challenge course is a series of individual and group, physical, social and emotional challenges that require a combination of teamwork, skills and individual commitment. Challenge courses are constructed outdoors using trees or utility poles and ropes, cables and wood. These courses may also be constructed indoors within an existing structure.

High elements require a person to climb higher than can be safely spotted from the ground and require a belay system to protect the participant. This includes indoor and outdoor climbing walls.

Low elements are non-belayed activities below shoulder height, which focus on a set goal within a supportive group environment. This includes indoor and outdoor bouldering walls. Low elements can be removable.

Initiative tasks challenge the group to utilize its resources to solve a set problem. Initiatives can use permanent or portable equipment either indoors or outdoors.

QUESTIONS

CAMPS WITH ANY TYPE OF CHALLENGE COURSE ANSWER QUESTIONS CC1- CC22

CC1 Has the challenge course been installed using the minimum standard recommended by The Association for Challenge Course Technology (A.C.C.T.)?

The primary concern is for the safety of the participants.

CC2 Has the climbing wall been installed using the minimum standards recommended by the Climbing Wall Association?

CC3 Is the challenge course designed, installed and operated to deter unauthorized access and use?

CC4 Annually, prior to the camp season, has a qualified challenge course professional, as defined by A.C.C.T., completed a safety inspection of the course and provided a written report to the camp director?

CC5 Does the camp implement the recommendations from the annual inspection prior to the use of the challenge course?

- CC6 Is there an annual inspection of the ground beneath the challenge course for proper drainage, rotting of poles or trees, insect or animal damage and potential future hazards?**
- CC7 Are all trees and poles in the challenge course inspected on an ongoing basis to determine their health?**
- CC8 Do trained camp staff inspect the challenge course and equipment prior to each use?**
- CC9 Have all instructors completed a training course appropriate to the site and program?**
Challenge course instructors must have completed a course offered by a challenge course professional trainer.
- CC10 Have all spotters received proper instruction in their roles?**
- CC11 Does the camp have a written emergency plan for the challenge course?**
The written emergency plan must describe the appropriate response for medical emergencies, injuries, panic attacks and equipment failures.
- CC12 Are the instructional staff trained in the written emergency plan?**
- CC13 Are the numbers of instructors and spotters sufficient for the number of participants engaged in the challenge course as recommended by the installer or qualified challenge course professional?
- CC14 When high elements are in use, are at least two trained staff supervising?
- CC15 When low elements are in use, is at least one trained staff supervising?
- CC16 Are the safety rules posted and explained to the campers prior to their participation?**
- CC17 Is safety terminology explained and used by both staff and campers?
- CC18 Does all safety equipment meet the manufacturer's and installer's recommendations?**
- CC19 Is an ongoing, written record maintained and kept on file detailing the condition of the challenge course and the safety and belay equipment?
- CC20 Are near-miss incidents recorded for future assessment of risk?
- CC21 Is a first aid kit accessible when the challenge course is in use?
- CC22 Do the instructors have a communication method to summon assistance while the challenge course is in use?
- CAMPS WITH HIGH ELEMENTS ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS CC23 TO CC29
- CC23 Are helmets, ropes, harnesses, carabineers and belay devices inspected on a use-by-use basis?**
The staff and participants must wear full safety equipment. For high elements, this will include a helmet, harness and belay system for all activities.

CC24 Is the challenge equipment removed and stored in a cool, dry, locked area while not in use?

CC25 Are the high elements and climbing equipment used only for the purpose of a challenge course program?

CC26 If campers are belaying, are there sufficient belayers for the weight of the climber when using a belay post?

CC27 Is a standardized system of communication used among instructors on the high elements and the staff spotting on the ground and campers dismounting the elements?

CC28 Are all campers and staff equipped with helmets, harnesses, locking carabineers and a belay system when they are on high elements?

CC29 Does the head of challenge courses have easy access to equipment for a participant rescue?

CAMPS WITH LOW ELEMENTS AND INITIATIVE TASKS ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS CC30 TO CC32.

CC30 Are portable low elements and initiatives removed and stored in a locked area when not in use?

CC31 Is the equipment for portable low elements and initiatives used only for the purpose of initiative challenges?

CC32 Is the area below a bouldering wall appropriately and sufficiently padded according to manufacturer's recommendations to prevent injury to climbers?