

Mecklenburg County Council

COPE & Climbing

Climbing Tower Staffing Requirements

There must be a minimum of two trained staffers on site at all times to open the tower for climbing, rappelling or zipping. One of the staffers must be trained as one of the following and is considered the Lead Instructor for the day:

- COPE Director
- Climbing Director
- COPE Level II Instructor

The other trained staffer(s) can be any of the following but at least one must be over 18:

- COPE Director
- Climbing Director
- COPE Level II Instructor
- Climbing Level I Instructor
- Instructor In Training – at the discretion of the Lead Instructor

An Instructor in Training is generally someone earning their Climbing I training or a scout that is 16 and has his Climbing merit badge.

Most trained staffers will be Climbing Level I.

While the minimum requirement is 2 trained staffers, we would prefer to have 2 + 1 for each element that we want to open. If we want to have two climbing routes open, the rappel route and one zip line, this would be 5 trained instructors.

It is also very helpful to have at least 2 additional staffers (not necessarily trained as climbing instructors) to help with helmets, harnesses, the zip line ladder, and other various tasks around the tower.

Throughput for climbing is 10 scouts per instructor per hour but this is best case. It will only go down based on the help we have with helmets and harnesses and the competency of the scouts who are climbing. We are also limited by the number of harnesses we have. Our max group size is usually 15-20 allowing scouts to climb more than once if the group is smaller or we have more instructors. In some rare cases with many instructors and really good help we can handle more than this but it is uncommon.

Please be sure to check on the Age Appropriate Guidelines for the activities that scouts may participate in: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416_Insert_Web.pdf

Contact information for all qualified instructors and more information on the Mecklenburg County Council COPE & Climbing program can be found on the program website:
<http://www.mccscouting.org/cope-climbing>