Camp Hulaco High Ropes Course and Rappelling Tower
Safety Rules & Guidelines

1. Qualifications and Consent

a) Course use is permitted only under qualified adult supervision including a designated Climbing Supervisor (BSA climbing director/instructor or equivalent is recommended)
b) Youth must be at least 12 years of age to use the course without a parent or guardian with them.
c) All youth (under the age of 18) must have signed parental consent forms before being permitted to use the course.

2. Equipment

a) Clothing must be safe and modest. Shoes must be worn at all times.
b) All climbers and belayers must either use equipment provided by Camp Hulaco or other qualified equipment approved by the climbing supervisor.
c) Harness buckles must be "doubled backed" at the waist. Swiss Seats are prohibited.
d) Climbing Supervisor or designee is responsible to ensure that equipment fits and is used properly.
e) Camp equipment must be inventoried and organized into proper containers after each climbing session. Inventory sheet must be completed
f) Groups are responsible for the camp equipment signed out to them. If lost or damaged, they will be charged for replacement.
g) All equipment, **including the Ropes Course**, must be constantly monitored for proper function and safety.

3. Staffing

a) Ropes Course recommended staff size: 5 persons minimum.
    - Recommended stations: (1) belayer for course entry obstacle; (2) large platform; (3) small platform (zip-line rigging); (4) rover; (5) zip-line exit.
    - Additional staff should as necessary and to improve process flow.
b) The Jump Pole obstacle will require 1 skilled belay person. This person must be well versed and experienced with proper belay techniques – Climbing Technician.
c) Rappelling Tower recommended staff size: 2 persons per operating platform
    - Each platform that is in operation will have a belayer and a platform supervisor.

4. Belaying

a) All climbers will be on belay: [1] when entering the ropes course (large platform); [2] using the climbing wall; [3] while on rappel (bottom tension belay); [4] using the Jump Pole obstacle.
b) Only trained belayers are permitted to belay.
c) Proper belaying commands are to be used (On Belay? > Belay On, Climbing or Rappelling? > Climb or Rappel On).
d) The Climbing Supervisor will need to closely monitor belay activities during the climbing session to ensure proper technique, especially for the Jump Pole obstacle.

5. Climbing

a) All climbers/staff must wear approved harness with safety lanyard, helmet and gloves (gloves may be removed for climbing wall).

b) **At no time will any climber/staff remove their safety lanyard while on the course.**
c) **At no time will any climber be "off safety" while on the course. Infractions must be corrected immediately.**
d) When beginning an obstacle the following process will be used:
    a. Climber will attach safety lanyard and say, "On Safety"
    b. Climber will then detach from station safety and say, "Off Beener"
e) When ending an obstacle the following process will be used:
    a. Climber will attach to station safety and say, "On Beener"
    b. Climber will then detach safety lanyard and say, "Off Safety"
f) Only one climber is allowed on any given obstacle at a time (only exception is when climber needs aid or on the Ship's Crossing obstacle).
g) Some obstacles are more difficult than others; choose easier routes for less capable climbers in order to reduce stranding and long waits.

6. Zip-Line

a) Only use yellow slings marked "Zip Line" for pulley lanyard.
b) Inspect brake cable and weights to ensure proper function.
c) Only use zip-line approved pulleys for wire rope.
d) Beware that ball-bearing (speed) pulleys are "very" fast; use with extreme caution.
e) The weight restrictions for participants using the zip-line:
    - Less than 200 lbs. speed (blue) or cable (gold) pulleys.
    - Greater than 200 lbs. cable (gold) pulley.
f) Do not allow observers to stand under zip-line cable or around the braking mechanism.
g) **Close the Zip Line if brake system is not working properly.**

7. Rappelling Tower

a) Two staff personnel are required for each platform in use; one located on the platform (platform supervisor) and one on the ground providing belay support.
b) Climbing Wall belay will use "top rope" belay method (**ground**-to-**top**-to-**climber**);
c) Rappelling belay will be the standard ground (fireman's) belay.
d) Platform Rules:
    1. Number of persons on any give platform will not exceed 6.
    2. Only one person will occupy a ladder at any given time.
    3. Red lines designate "on safety" areas; before crossing the red line participant must be rigged in (belay or rappel).
e) Climbing wall belay commands are same as those covered in Section 4, Belaying.
f) Rappel method will be limited to safety eights (figure 8 with ears).
g) Rappelling will be in accordance with BSA rappelling guidelines using single or double rope techniques. For more information refer to BSA manual: *Topping Out: A BSA Climbing/Rappelling Manual*. Ensuring that the rope is rigged correctly for rappel is the Climbing Supervisors responsibility.
h) Belaying commands must be used (see Belaying section).

8. Restrictions

a) The course will not be used when wet or raining. If thunder is heard, activities will cease for a period of 30 minutes and can resume as long as: it is not raining; thunder has not been heard during wait period. Wait period resets each time thunder is heard.
b) The high ropes course facility can not be used to instruct others for pay.
c) Sunday use of the course is prohibited.

9. Conduct

a) Observe and practice safe climbing techniques. Dangerous or unsafe behavior will result in suspension of course privileges.
b) Climbing Supervisors have the right and the responsibility to deny access to the course for any individuals whom they consider a safety risk to themselves or to others.
c) Respect other participants make it a point to share the facility.
d) Problems such as accidents, damaged equipment, or unsafe climbing must be reported to the climbing supervisor as soon as possible.

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Staff Description

1. Climbing Supervisor

a) Required for each climbing session; an adult (21 years or older) designated as the session's Climbing Supervisor.
b) Proficient in climbing/rappelling/belaying techniques; preferred BSA climbing director/instructor or equivalent training.
c) In charge of overseeing all ropes course activities during the session.
d) Responsible for checking in/out and inventorying equipment for the session.
e) Responsible for general inspection of course obstacles and zip line braking system.
f) Has the right and responsibility to stop participants during climbing activities when; they do not abide by the course rules, their conduct is endangering self or others, equipment does not fit properly.
g) Complete inventory report at the end of each session.

2. Climbing Technician

a) Required for each climbing session; qualified individual approved by the Climbing Supervisor.
b) Trained in the proper technique for belaying.
c) If used on the course, is capable of traversing all obstacles.
d) Understands all safety requirements and is capable of assisting participants on the course.
e) Assists with rescues.

3. Climbing Assistant

a) Ground support personnel; approved by Climbing Supervisor.
b) Understands the proper use and can instruct/assist participants with equipment, i.e. putting on harness and helmet.
c) Helps organize and inventory equipment during session.