

Educational Strategies for Low Impact Climbing

Andrea Hassler and Annabelle McClure



The Access Fund - Jeep Conservation Team



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Conservation Team National: A&A



**“the aim of education is the knowledge,
not of facts, but of values”**

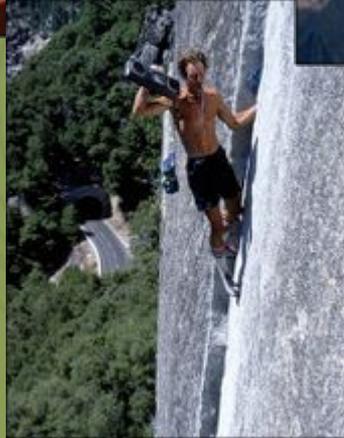
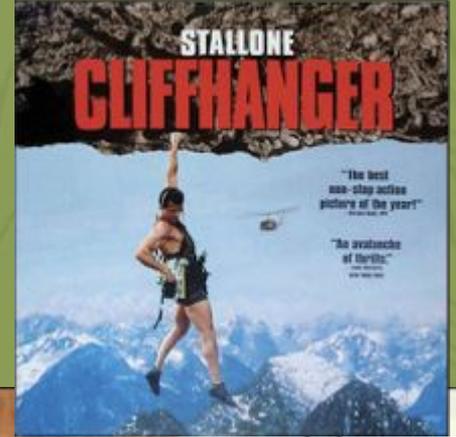
(William S. Burroughs)



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Is climbing still fringe?



Sprinters, Instagram, & Ultralight Cams...



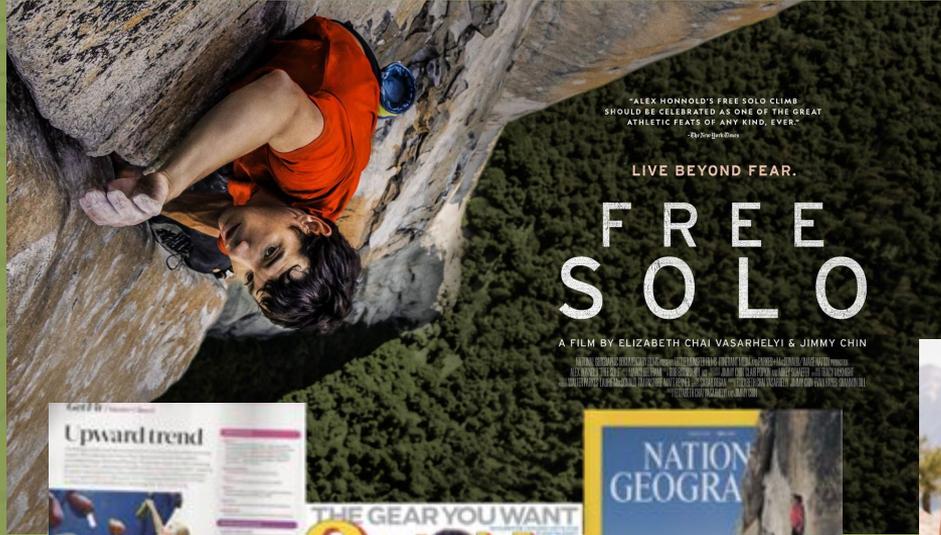
climbing_pictures_of... • Following

climbing_pictures_of_instagram ~ "Men's arms, wtf. It's nasty. Women's arms aren't vascular. Looks gross. Women with masculinity are disgusting." ~ These are just a few of the comments I've received recently. I know I shouldn't let it get to me, but these particular words do hit home. A few years ago, after watching me climb, two first-time female climbers at my gym walked out after loudly declaring they never wanted their arms to look like mine. It was such a

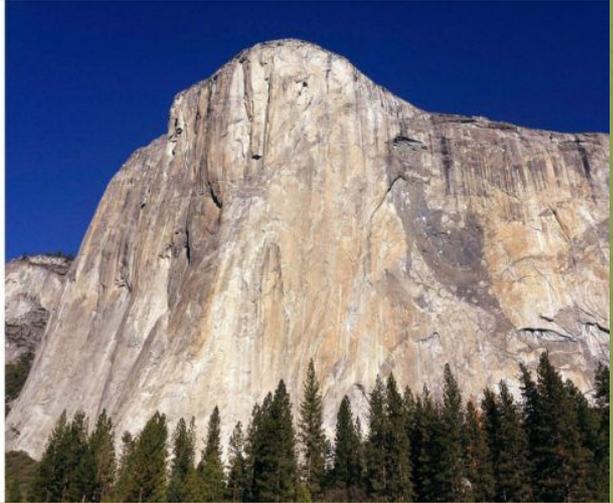
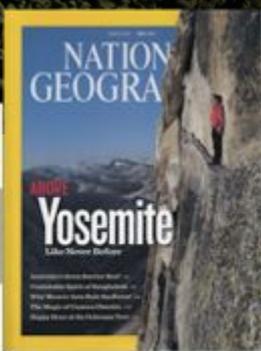
3,507 likes
6 HOURS AGO



Media is embracing climbing



HEALTH & FITNESS
Are Climbing Gyms the New CrossFit?



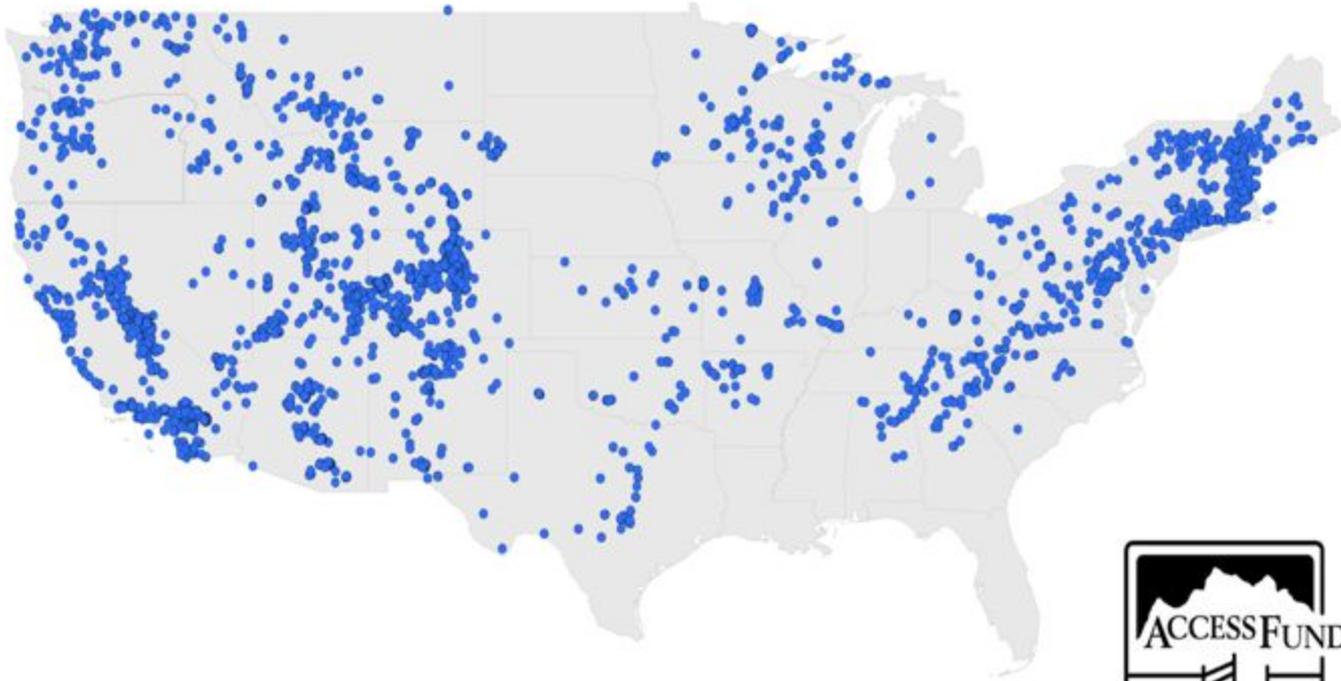
Explosion of Indoor Climbing

- **Over 4,000 people fill out digital waivers each day**
- **~10% increase in new climbing gyms annually**
- **Colleges, community centers, amusement parks**

2020 Olympics...



United States Climbing Sites



Source: mountainproject
EDM20140710



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What does it mean to educate the climbing community?

- **Share information on climbing specific issues to decrease our impact in the outdoors**
 - **Leave No Trace for Climbers**
- **Promote the values of responsible climbing**
 - **Impacts to access and conservation**



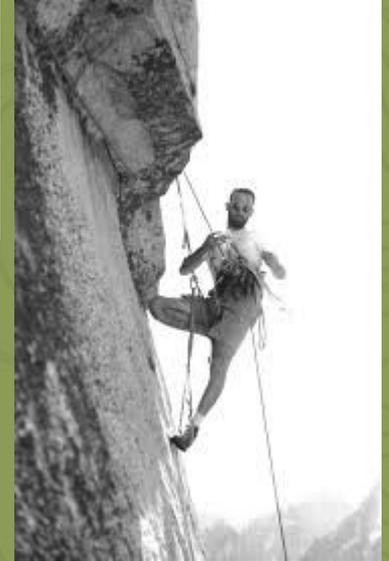
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Who do we target?

Climbers!

1. New climbers
2. Old climbers
3. Gym climbers
4. Young climbers



Who do we target?

Non-Climbers

1. Land Managers and Land Owners
2. Other users- hikers, bikers, etc.



How do we educate?

- **Different formats for connecting with climbers**
 - **Informally**
 - **Formally**
 - **Passively**



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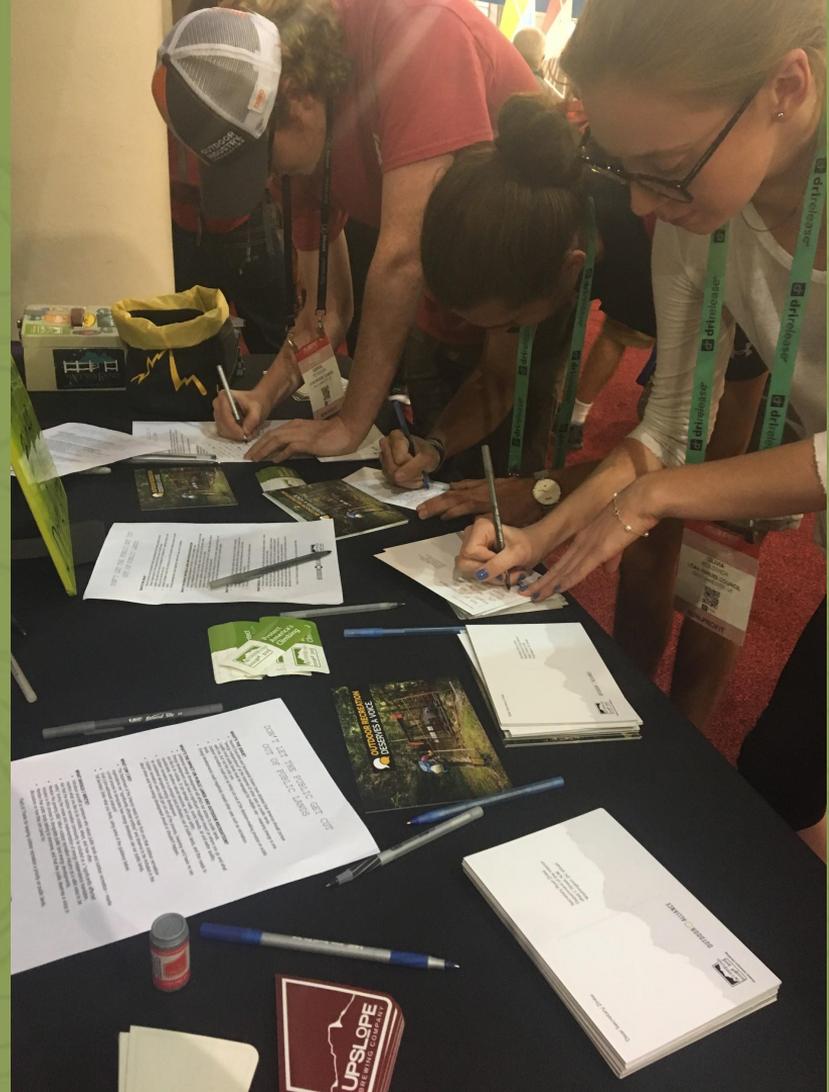
How do we educate?

- **Informally**

- **Person-to-person (daily interactions within community)**
- **Tabling Events (festivals, climbing gyms, etc.)**
- **Climber's Coffee**



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How do we educate?

- **Formally**
 - **Youth climbing team lessons**
 - **Climbers Pact/Gym-to-crag presentations**
 - **Stewardship events & workshops**



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How do we educate?

- **Passively**
 - **Signs and Posters**
 - **Social Media**



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Photo courtesy of Trak Bradbury

CLIMB RESPONSIBLY AT SHELF ROAD



Loud music can disturb wildlife and other users. Keep music to yourself.



Do not allow your dog to dig, disturb wildlife, or act aggressively. Pack out all pet waste.



Use vault toilets when possible or pack out solid waste using a bag system.



Pack out and dispose of all trash, including micro-trash: tape, wrappers, fruit peels/cores.

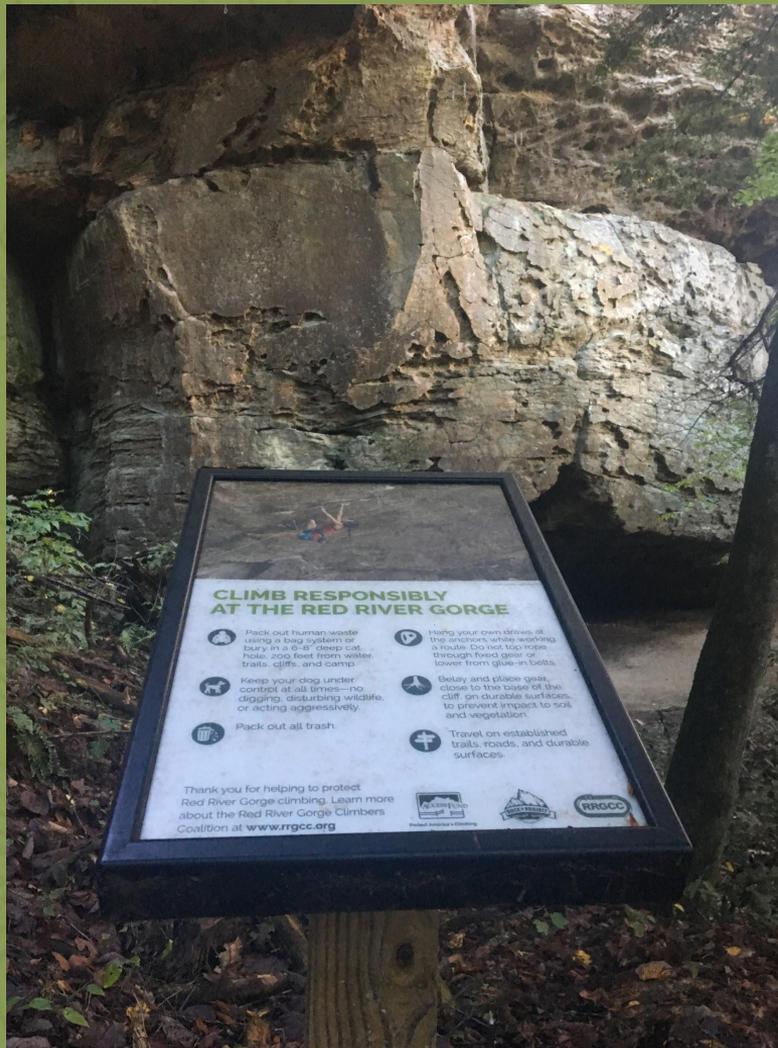


Belay and place gear close to the base of the cliff, on durable surfaces, to prevent impact to soil and vegetation.



Use caution. Bee and snake populations are active in this area.

Thank you for helping to protect Shelf Road. Learn more about the Pikes Peak Climber's Alliance at www.pikespeakclimbersalliance.org



Making the transition from GYM to CRAG

RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR CLIMBING PRACTICES THAT HELP PRESERVE ACCESS

IN THE GYM	AT THE CRAG	DO THIS INSTEAD
Loud music fuels your climbing session.	Loud music may disrupt others trying to enjoy the outdoors, including landowners.	Leave the speakers at home or at least turn them off when others are nearby.
Lowering off the top anchors is the norm.	Top anchors may not be regularly monitored for wear.	Consider rappelling to lessen the impact on anchors.
Gym staff clean up chalk spills, and provide trash cans for bar wrappers and discarded finger taps.	Chalk spills and trash are your responsibility.	Clean up after yourself and pack out your trash.
You stash your pack and unused gear in a locker.	Sprawling gear can crush plant life, trample sensitive soil, and disturb other climbing parties.	Be aware of where you're dropping your gear and contain it as much as possible.
Fixed draws on lead routes are standard.	Landowners may not appreciate the visual impact of fixed draws.	Know the rules before you go, and don't leave draws on your project unless they are allowed.
You do your business in the bathroom.	You do your business in the wild.	The best methods for human waste disposal vary depending on what kind of environment you're climbing in. Know before you go: www.accessfund.org/poop
Climbing in large groups is no big deal.	Climbing in large groups is not always appropriate, especially when the crag is crowded or in areas where access is sensitive.	Stay low profile—climb in pairs at crowded crags and in areas where access is sensitive.
Gyms implement rules and standards to encourage safety, but it's the climber's responsibility to double check gear and partners.	The great outdoors contains many natural elements that can create hazardous situations, and it's the climber's responsibility to manage these hazards.	Climbing is inherently dangerous inside and outside. Be aware, find a mentor, and double check your gear and your partners every time.

Illustration by Kristin Malone



Protect America's Climbing



Do YOU know...

...how to minimize your impact?

...about access issues nearby?

Do you commit to The Pact?

www.accessfund.org/the-pact/

- Respect other users
- Dispose of human waste properly
- Pack & camp in designated areas
- Stay on established trails
- Place gear & pads on durable surfaces
- Close up cracks and rock marks
- Leave your public register group size and route
- Pack out all food, crabsacks & gear
- Report closures
- Be an operator, not a operator.



Will YOU be a climbing steward?

Get involved with your local climbing organization:



We work together to protect climbing!

Do you treasure your climbing enough to help?

- Learn & Spread the Word (5000)
- Donate Your Money (251K)
- Volunteer Your Time (251)



www.boulderclimbers.org
your source for local climbing events & info

Minimizing Noise



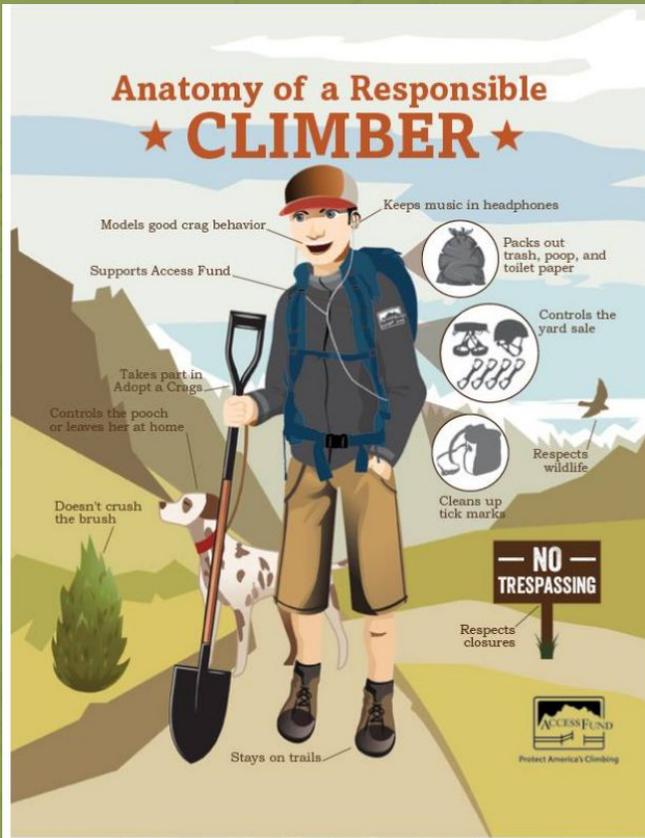
Protect America's Climbing



Do



Don't



Access Fund
Posted by Holly Smolenski (?)
Liked · March 10

What does a responsible, access-minded climber look like? Here's what he/she looks like to us...

Tag Photo Add Location Edit

Like Comment Share Edit

Elana Rabin, Brian Payst, Brian Runnells and 719 others like this.

677 shares

Mike Gauthier I'm waiting to see the poster of an "Irresponsible Climber."

Like Reply 23 · March 10 at 10:02am · Edited

Access Fund replied · 3 Replies

Marty McMantle Doesn't look like any climbers I've ever met, looks like an add for the local clothing shop

Like Reply 19 · March 10 at 10:17am

Lynn Martel I'd remove the earbuds completely, what's the point of spending time outdoors if you don't want to hear nature? not very safe and total lack of respect for the natural world.

Like Reply 14 · March 10 at 1:49pm

Vineet Gupta I totally agree with you LYNN , I dont carry any gizmo with me except for the basic mobile whose number is pvt.and is 90%switch off to be used in emergency

Like · March 12 at 4:36am

Write a reply...

Karyna Dom Thank you one million times for including cleans up tick marks. I really wish you guys, AAC, & the mags would start a campaign to eliminate their use altogether. No matter how much you brush, they never fully come off. And this is because of diseases that EVERYTHING has

Write a comment...



Chris Schulte - Stashes Pads

from **Access Fund** PLUS 1 year ago (NOT YET RATED)

Gorilla attacks Chris Schulte for stashing pads.

Don't Stash Pads: It's illegal and can get your climbing area closed.

Develop Your Own Lesson

Issues to Action: ‘What, So What, Now What’

1. What is the issue?
2. So What? Who cares?
3. Now What will you do next?



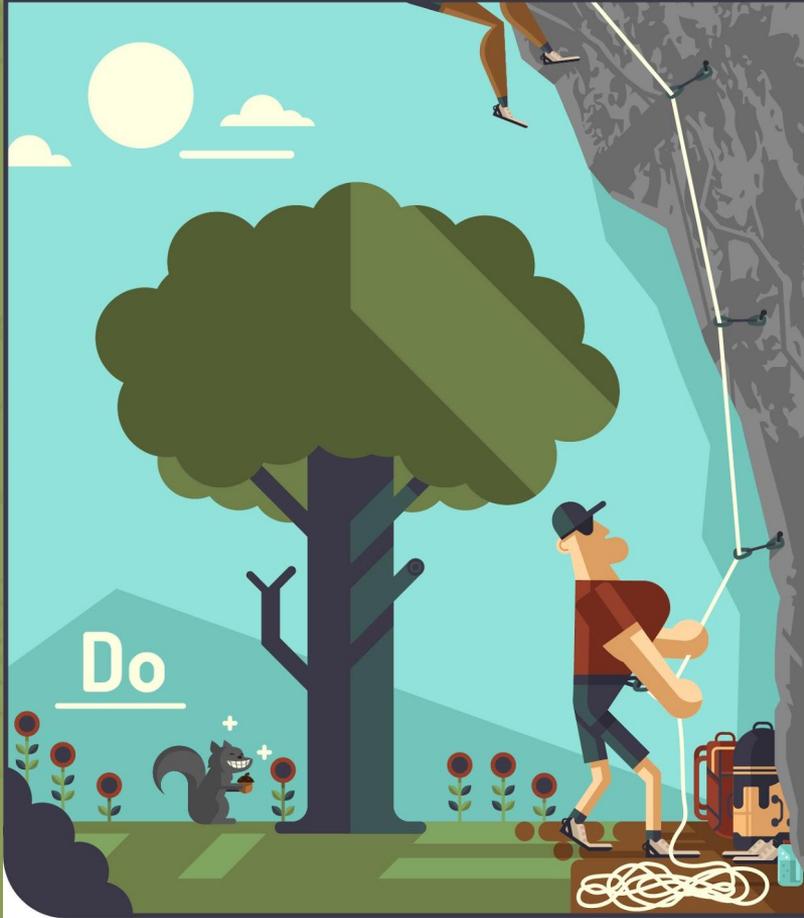
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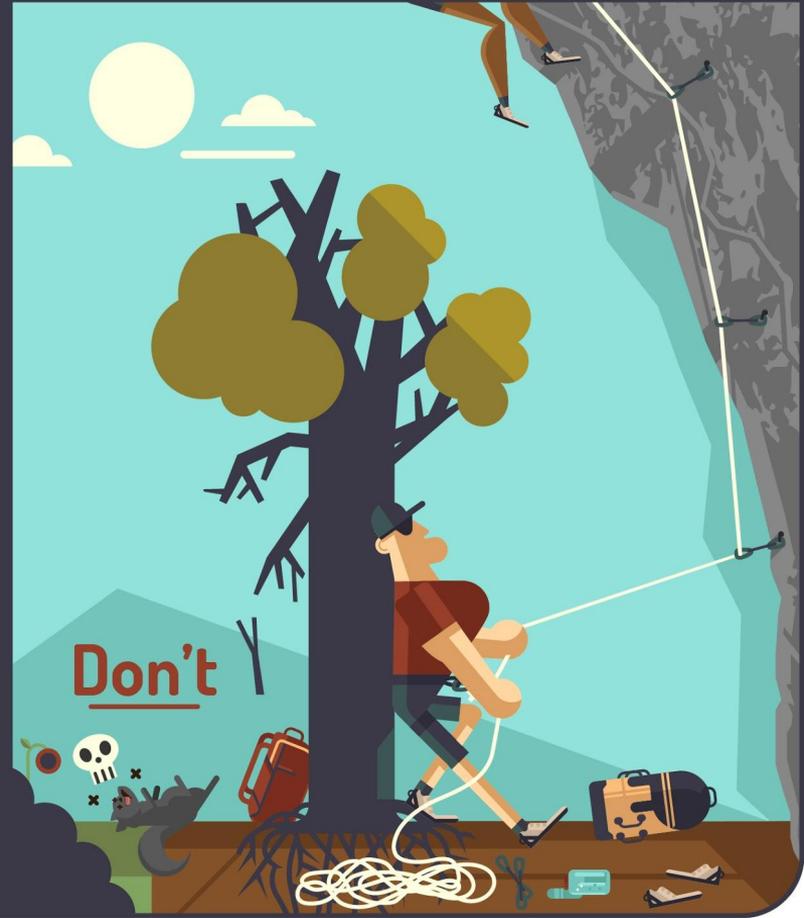
Organizing Your Gear



Protect America's Climbing



Do



Don't

Develop Your Own Lesson

Identify an item from Climber's Pact, brainstorm how to teach/talk about the issue

- 1. What? (ID the issue, impact and resolution)**
- 2. Who? (what people/user group needs to hear this?)**
- 3. Where? (ex: gym, festival, group climbing day, online)**
- 4. How? (ex: activity, presentation, image)**



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Commit to your fellow climbers to:

- Be considerate of other users
- Park and camp in designated areas
- Dispose of human waste properly
- Stay on trails whenever possible
- Place gear and pads on durable surfaces
- Respect wildlife, sensitive plants, soils, and cultural resources
- Clean up chalk and tick marks
- Minimize group size and noise
- Pack out all trash, crash pads, and gear
- Learn the local ethics for the places you climb
- Respect regulations and closures
- Use, install, and replace bolts and fixed anchors responsibly
- Be an upstander, not a bystander



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Summary

- **Current trends in climbing**
- **Education targets: different types of climbers & non-climbers**
- **Education formats and examples: formal, informal, passive**
- **Tools to create your own lessons: what, so what, now what?**



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Questions?



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