

Climbing Merit Badge



The Climbing Merit Badge is available through the Boy Scouts of America and Upper Limits is proud to help the Boy Scouts achieve their badge by providing a Rock Climbing and Rappelling Merit Badge Class. To provide you with the best service, we have created this informational sheet to answer most of your questions prior to making a reservation.

Reservations and a non-refundable deposit are required for all groups. All participants must sign an Upper Limits Liability Waiver and Rules Agreement before climbing. Participants under 18 must have their parent or legal guardian initial and sign the waiver. Please make sure waivers are filled out completely, or some participants may not be able to use the gym. Remember to bring the completed waivers on your group date. The Upper Limits Liability Waiver and Rules Agreement is available online at www.upperlimits.com or at the gym. Hours and prices are subject to change without notice.

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The Rock Climbing and Rappelling Merit Badge class is a 3-4 hour interactive course taught by certified Merit Badge counselors. Scouts are responsible for meeting the requirements as outlined in the appropriate merit badge booklet. The class includes equipment rental (shoes are not included, athletic shoes are fine) and additional climbing. Minimum age for the course is 11 years old. There is a minimum of 2 scouts for each class and a maximum of 15. Larger groups will be divided accordingly. Reservations are required.

2-9 Participants \$40 per person facility usage fee
10+ Participants \$35 per person facility usage fee

May 1st - September 30th

Saturday Mornings 10 am - Finish
Sunday Mornings..... 10 am - Finish

October 1st - April 30th

Saturday Mornings 10 am - Finish
Saturday Evenings 4 pm - Finish
Sunday Mornings..... 10 am - Finish

A non-refundable \$15 deposit per person is required to secure the reservation. **Participants must be on time for the class or the deposit will be forfeited and the class will be closed.** An Upper Limits manager must approve other dates and times. Please refer to the back of this sheet for more details about bringing your troop to Upper Limits for the Rock Climbing and Rappelling Merit Badge.

For more information, or to make a reservation, call 314-241-7625 and speak to a manager.

Other Helpful Information

Scouts taking the merit badge:

All participants must sign an Upper Limits Liability Waiver and Rules Agreement before climbing. Participants under 18 must have their parent or legal guardian initial and sign the waiver. Please make sure waivers are filled out completely, or some participants may not be able to use the gym. Remember to bring the completed waivers on your group date. The Upper Limits Liability Waiver and Rules Agreement is available online at www.upperlimits.com or at the gym. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

Please plan to eat a good breakfast before arriving at Upper limits and/or bring a snack. Class is scheduled to run 3-4 hours, depending on group size, and a lunch break may be taken following the class (during open climbing time).

Several certified Merit Badge Counselors are on staff at Upper Limits, which allows us to keep the counselor to student ratio low and provide more personal attention.

Efficiency is a group strength. The more the scouts study for the badge (using the climbing merit badge book) beforehand, the easier it will be to move from one skill to the next, which leaves more time for the fun part of the day -- climbing!!

As outlined in the Climbing Merit Badge Requirements booklet, all skills must be satisfactorily completed before obtaining the badge. **All scouts must read the Climbing Merit Badge booklet and demonstrate knowledge of all 12 requirements for receipt of merit badge.** Upper Limits counselors will teach a 2-hour rock climbing and belaying course (Rock Gym 101) and a rappelling course, after which the scouts will be **tested** on the other miscellaneous requirements, including knot tying. Inability to answer questions or show proficiency of skills will result in non-receipt of the Merit Badge. In such a case there will be no refund of any fees. Scouts who do not receive the badge on their first attempt can return within 4 months to be retested for a facility usage fee of \$10.

Please refer to the Climbing Merit Badge booklet for the new CPR requirement. Upper Limits counselors do not teach CPR or initial the first two requirements on the Merit Badge cards. Therefore, this Merit Badge requirement must be met by receiving the First Aid Merit Badge or current CPR training. Please complete and initial these requirements before your trip to Upper Limits for completion of the badge.

Troops are responsible for providing the Merit Badge cards.

Troop leaders or adults accompanying the group are encouraged to take the first part of the class (Rock Gym 101) with the scouts, so that they understand the rules of the gym and are able to supervise the group appropriately. Adult leaders will learn how to belay for a climber in this class, they do not have to climb. The cost of this class is \$30 per person; there is a \$5 discount per person for groups of 10 or more.

If you would like your troop to be featured on our bulletin board, please send us a picture of your trip.

Climbers who have already taken the merit badge:

If it has been at least a year since your scouts have taken the Rock Gym 101/Merit Badge Class, Upper Limits strongly recommends having the participants take the Rock Gym 101 class again. In our experience, participants who have lost touch with the sport are at greater risk for accidents, so in an effort to operate with your safety in mind, we would like to assist your group in remembering proper equipment usage.

Climbers who are not taking the Rock Gym 101 will be checked/rechecked to belay. While we make an effort to help you remember proper equipment usage and skills, the belay check is not a refresher course. For liability purposes, instruction is only allowed by an Upper Limits staff member during a formal class. If participants do not pass their belay check, they can climb for the day without belaying, as the Rock Gym 101 class will have already started.

For liability purposes, we ask that participants 14 and under are supervised by an adult at all times. While we operate with your safety in mind at all times, we also ask for your cooperation in this effort.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Upper Limits • 326 s. 21st Street • St. Louis MO 63103 • www.upperlimits.com • 314-241-7625