



## American Camp Association Standards Adventure Tree Climbing

Adventure tree climbing programs are "specialized activities" according to the ACA. While there are not yet standards that apply directly to tree climbing, the standards for "adventure/challenge activities" and for "climbing/rappelling" are an extremely good fit and **Adventure Tree** assumes these standards for tree climbing programs.

The standards that apply fall into the "Program Design" category. Here are stated the standard number and the text from the ACA publication Standards-at-a-Glance, 2012 edition (updated October 2014).

A tree climbing program implemented via **Adventure Tree** utilizes protocols and practices that satisfy these standards. Upon successful completion of the training and implementation, **Adventure Tree** provides documentation of compliance with these standards via an Implementation Report provided to the camp.

### Staff Qualifications and Supervision for Specialized Activities

- PD.13 Adventure/Challenge Supervisor: The overall supervisor for adventure/challenge activities must be an adult with certification or documented training and recent experience in those activities. The overall supervisor must have at least 6 weeks of experience in a management/supervisory role in similar types of programs within the past 5 years.
- PD.15 Staff Skill Verification: Staff teaching specialized program activities must have their skills verified and evaluated prior to leading activities.
- PD.16 Supervision of Activity Leaders: Camp must document regular observations of specialized activity leaders.

### Activity Support and Supervision

- PD.17 First Aider: Camp must have an appropriately certified first aid/CPR person on duty at all specialized activities.
- PD.18 Safety Orientation: Participants in specialized activities must have a safety orientation before participating.
- PD.19 Competency Demonstration: Participants of specialized activities must be strictly monitored until competency is demonstrated with appropriate activity equipment.
- PD.20 Access of Specialized Activity Areas: Camps should control access to specialized activity areas.
- PD.21 Spotters and Belayers: Must be trained and supervised, and must be located in positions to observe and assist.
- PD.22 Supervision Ratios for Specialized Program Activities: Camp must establish minimum ratios of trained staff to participants required for each type of specialized activity.

### Equipment and Facilities

- PD.23 Safety Regulations and Emergency Procedures: Camp must specify safety rules and emergency/rescue procedures for each type of specialized activity offered.
- PD.24 Annual Inspection of Adventure/Challenge Course Elements: Camp must have annual inspection by qualified personnel of all adventure/challenge elements.

### Protective Headgear and Apparel

- PD.29 **Mandatory:** Protective Headgear: Protective headgear must be worn by all campers and staff participating in motorized vehicle or bicycle activities, rock climbing, rappelling, spelunking, high ropes, vertical climbing walls/tower, and activities involving boarding, in-line skating, and hockey.