



## Road Map to Start a Tree Climbing Program

- 1) Select and Prepare a Tree
  - 2) Obtain Gear
  - 3) Train the Lead Facilitator and Staff
- Start Climbing and Having Fun**

**Adventure Tree** guides you from the start to a fully implemented and operating program.

### 1) Select a Strong Tree with Spreading Branches

- Adventure Tree's Certified Arborist helps select and prepare the tree.
- Dead wood is removed for safety, and then anchor points for ropes are identified.

### 2) Acquire the Climbing Gear

- Start small or large. You can add more gear later.
- Adventure Tree provides high quality gear packages.
- The facilitator trainee puts the gear into service under the guidance of Adventure Tree.

### 3) Adventure Tree Trains the Lead Facilitator(s) and Support Staff

- Facilitator candidates should be capable, physically fit and responsible (minimum age 21).
- Training for 1 facilitator requires 4 consecutive days. For 2-4 facilitators, 5 training days are required.
- The new facilitator conducts at least 2 practice tree climbing events during training.

### Now Start Providing Climbs:

- Adventure Tree assesses the facilitator and the program throughout the training and implementation. Upon successful completion, Adventure Tree qualifies the program to conduct tree climbing activities.
- Adventure Tree stays in touch for support.

Tree climbing is a great fit for camps of all types; we'll show you how. Adventure Tree can run a pilot program for you. Give your campers or students a special treat and check out how well a tree climbing program works at your site.

Costs (includes training for 1 facilitator and preparing 1 tree):

6 climbing stations (small)	\$8,600
10 climbing stations (medium)	\$11,300
16 climbing stations (large)	\$15,350

### Adventure Tree

**Have Fun • Learn • Grow**

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## First Steps to Start an Adventure Tree Climbing Program

- 1) Look for a Climbing Tree
- 2) Decide Who Will Be Your Lead Facilitator
- 3) Contact Adventure Tree for Consultation and Scheduling

### 1) Look for a Climbing Tree



The best climbing trees are "open grown", which gives them full canopies with many branches. Look for a tree with branches not far from the ground and a canopy that extends well away from the trunk.

But you don't need a perfect, open grown tree to have a great climbing tree. The forest grown tree on the right has high first branches without much spread from the main trunk, but this is a very successful climbing tree.

Look for a tree that is large enough for fun climbs into the canopy and has a variety of crotches and branches for climbing rope stations. A rule of thumb is that branches must be at least 3 inches in diameter to hold a climbing rope.



### 2) Decide Who Will Be Your Lead Facilitator

The lead facilitator oversees the tree climbing program and should be a responsible, competent person who is physically fit. He or she must be at least 21 years of age. Consider having 2 or 3 lead facilitators for more options scheduling events and back-up help in case a facilitator must be absent.

### 3) Contact Adventure Tree for Consultation and Scheduling

Let us know what trees you've found; send us photos if you are able (include a person or other object in the picture for scale). We'll help you get started on the process of choosing your program tree.

We can advise on how many climbing rope stations you may need, tree climbing safety, etc. We can provide information for presentations to decision makers, photos and other materials for fund raising, references to other clients with whom we've worked. We'll help you get your tree climbing program off the ground.

When you're ready, we can schedule a visit to prepare your climbing tree and train your facilitators. Soon your tree climbing program will be up and running and you'll have excited, happy climbers wanting to come back for more.

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