

~~ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM—DIVISION OF~~
~~STATE PARKS~~ ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE, AND
TOURISM

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

JULY 1, 2014 SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

PARK DIRECTIVE 3085

RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING RULES AND REGULATIONS

~~Rappelling and rock climbing on state park property is permitted at approved sites only.~~

Arkansas contains significant and extensive geological resources favorable for rock climbing and rappelling. Furthermore, Arkansas has a long history of rock climbing and has become a desired destination for recreational climbing. In order to responsibly manage rock climbing and steward the natural resources in which climbing occurs, Park Directive 3085 establishes that rock climbing and rappelling on state park property is permitted at approved sites, only.

I. SITE SELECTION

- A. Superintendents of state parks that have sites considered desirable for ~~rappelling and/or rock climbing~~ may rock climbing and/or rappelling are encouraged to submit requests to the Director of Arkansas State Parks for approval.
- B. Requests ~~shall set forth~~ should include complete details of the site, ~~indicating including~~ the site location, ~~detailed a~~ detailed description, ~~resource any potential impacts on parks' to the~~ park's natural and cultural resources, any recreational uses, facilities, ~~and~~ long term development or master planning, safety hazards, weather ~~and~~, time-of-day influences, proposed rules and signing for the site, and degree of supervision considered necessary for use by the public.
- C. Approved sites ~~will~~ may have signage indicating that the location is approved for rappelling and rock climbing. Signage ~~shall~~ should include any restriction which may apply, such as ~~time of day, plus instructions for rappellers and climbers to~~

~~check in at the park visitor center prior to rappelling and/or climbing.~~ hours of acceptable use.

II. ~~RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING IN ARKANSAS STATE PARKS-~~ **DEFINITIONS**

Arkansas contains significant geologic resources favorable for rock climbing and rappelling. Rock climbing and rapelling are generally categorized as follows:

- **Sport climbing.** Climbing predominantly involving the use of fixed hardware, ropes, harnesses, chalk, and removable quickdraws (carabiners plus fabric sling).
- **Trad climbing.** Climbing predominantly involving the use of removable equipment (cams and stoppers, primarily) placed in the rock by the climber for protection. Also uses the equipment listed above. Common on rock features containing cracks/fissures and other features where removable gear can be placed.
- **Bouldering.** Climbing involving only shoes, chalk, and a bouldering pad that emphasizes difficult and often gymnastic-like movements on boulders. Generally found on boulders and small bluffs that are low to the ground where serious injury from falling is unlikely.
- **Mixed climbing.** A combination of both sport and trad climbing.
- **Rappelling.** Differentiated from rock climbing in that rappelling begins at the top of a rock face with the rappeller lowering down the face using ropes, harnesses, lowering devices, and often fixed hardware that has been placed in the rock at the top of the rock face.

III. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ROCK CLIMBING AND RAPPELLING IN ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

The following rules and regulations will apply to ~~rappelling and~~ rock climbing and rappelling in Arkansas State Parks.

- A. Once each year, rappellers and/or rock climbers Rock climbers and/or rappellers must complete a rappelling / climbing checklist and sign a liability release form (see attachments), and sign the Rappelling and Rock Climbing Checklist Liability Release.

- B. A parent or legal guardian must complete the check list checklist and liability release form for all minors; those age seventeen (17) and under. (those aged 17 and under).
- C. ~~Rappellers and/or rock climbers must notify staff at the park visitor center each day they participate.~~ Rock climbers and rappellers shall minimize their impacts to the sites and follow leave-no-trace principles. Climbers bouldering shall guard against unnecessary damage to flora by limiting cleaning of boulders and keeping crash pads in the staging area.
- D. ~~Types of climbing considered free soloing* or highball bouldering** are prohibited.~~ Climbers and rappellers are expected to stay on established trails and refrain from establishing "social" trails.

~~*Free soloing—climbing without safety equipment at various heights.~~

~~** Highball bouldering—climbing without safety equipment at limited heights (15 feet) with assistance of spotter and foam crash pad for landing.~~

- E. ~~All rappellers and climbers should be accompanied by a spotter or another participant.~~ Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism (ADPHT) recognizes that fixed hardware is an accepted and essential component both in safely facilitating rock climbing and in protecting natural resources. ADPHT shall allow the placement and maintenance of fixed hardware (i.e., "bolts") where appropriate and is encouraged to consult with a qualified local climbing organization (e.g. Arkansas Climbers Coalition) for the accepted best practices for the management of fixed hardware.
- F. ~~Designated rappelling and climbing sites are considered vertical trails. Rappellers and climbers are expected to stay on trail routes and refrain from making rogue trails. Chipping, glueing, or otherwise manufacturing holds is forbidden.~~

- G. Rappellers/climbers shall use equipment and safety gear appropriate to for the activity. ~~The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism (ADPT)~~ ADPHT is not liable or responsible for any ~~portable or temporary~~ equipment ~~left~~ used by rappellers or climbers, ~~nor is ADPHT liable or responsible for any fixed hardware. Rappellers and climbers assume all liability and risk associated with the use of fixed hardware.~~
- H. ~~Rappellers / climbers are prohibited from attaching or placing any permanent equipment, hold, fasteners, or anchor points. Any existing permanent equipment is not maintained or supported by Arkansas State Parks or ADPT. Rappellers and/or climbers assume all liability and risk for use. Rappelling and climbing participants shall conduct themselves in a courteous and orderly manner and abide by local, state, and federal laws, as well as obey all park rules and regulations.~~
- I. ~~Rappelling and climbing participants shall conduct themselves in a courteous and orderly manner and abide by local, state, and federal laws, as well as obey all park rules and regulations. In any and all cases, state park management shall have complete and final authority over all sites and retain the authority to revoke any privileges issued for rappelling/climbing activities.~~
- J. ~~In any and all cases, state park officials have complete and final authority over all sites and retain the authority to revoke any privileges issued for rappelling / climbing activities.~~

Reviewed by the Arkansas Legislative Council – Administrative Rules Sub-Committee on _____.

~~Administrative Rules and Regulations
Sub-Committee on June 11, 2014.~~

~~Attachments: — Checklist
—————Liability-Release~~

ATTACHMENT: RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING CHECKLIST AND
LIABILITY RELEASE

Replaces PD 3085 dated July 1, 2014

APPROVED BY:

~~GREG BUTTS~~ SHEA LEWIS, DIRECTOR
~~Arkansas State Parks~~ DIVISION OF STATE PARKS



Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE, AND
TOURISM

RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING CHECKLIST
RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING CHECKLIST AND LIABILITY
RELEASE

1. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~ensures~~ warrants that their ~~his/her~~ equipment is in good working condition and is appropriately rated for the subject activity.

2. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~certifies~~ warrants that they ~~he/she~~ possesses and will use appropriate safety gear for ~~this activity~~ the subject activities.

3. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~will be accompanied by the person named below;~~ acknowledges that the subject activities are inherently dangerous and involve the use of fixed hardware that was, and is, not provided, installed, inspected, maintained, or endorsed by ADPHT.

NAME:

ADDRESS

STATE: -ZIP:

PHONE (CELL PREFERRED):

4. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~has signed the liability release form for ADPT and has been verbally cautioned that any existing permanent anchor points he/she may find on routes are not maintained or supported by ADPT.~~ acknowledges that ADPHT has made no warranties or representations about the conditions or suitability of the designated rappelling or climbing sites, and rappeller/climber enters such areas at his/her own risk "as is", "where is", and with "all faults".

5. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~ensures that he/she will not install any permanent equipment or anchor points.~~ will not install any fixed hardware ("bolts") without permission from ADPHT.

6. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber agrees to ~~restrict~~ engage in the subject activities only in approved to and designated rappelling and rock climbing areas sites within the in state parks and exercise all due caution.

7. ~~Yes / No~~ Rappeller / climber ~~understands that any incident resulting in personal injury or damage to state park property must be reported immediately to~~

~~uniformed park staff. agrees to follow all signage including no trespassing markers or signage.~~

~~8. Yes / No Rappeller / climber has received permission to rappel or climb from the park superintendent or designee. agrees to immediately report any incident involving personal injury or damage to state park property to park staff.~~

Telephone Number: (H) _____ (G)

Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

~~Emergency Contact Person:~~

~~Address:~~

~~City~~

~~State~~

~~Zip~~

~~Relationship:~~

~~Phone (H): _____ (G): _____~~

~~Additional Emergency Contact Person:~~

~~Address:~~

~~City _____ State _____ Zip _____~~

~~Relationship _____ Phone (H): _____ (G): _____~~

0800-LIABILITY-RELEASE-07/14