

Coyote Campfire Fall 2017

Name	Andrew Joslin
Organization/program you work with	Multiple organizations
Where are you located?	Carlisle MA United States
What is the name of your activity/skill	tree climbing
What age is this skill/activity appropriate for?	young kids (5-8) Preteen (9-12) teen adult
Any special materials needed to lead this activity?	rope harness carabiner helmet
Brief activity overview/description	<p>Typical activity is a group climb, ropes are set before the climb starts, anywhere from 3 to 8 rope positions. Climbers are verbally introduced to the basic concepts of rope and harness tree climbing. I'll talk about trees in general, their anatomy and their part in the natural world/forest ecology. I'll also point out specific natural history features at the site, for instance bird species present etc. I'll do a demo of the climbing technique and involve a participant volunteer. After that climbers are fit in harnesses and helmets and start climbing with one-on-one coaching until each climber is proficient. Ideally climbers are allowed sufficient time on rope and in the tree to reach some transformative moments, a minimum of a half hour, more is better. The climber's experience could involve insight into their own capabilities, their relationship to the tree and to nature in general, whatever shows up. It's very individual but the trees have a way of bringing each climber to something valuable. The climber's are monitored closely, it is a "by choice" activity, when a climber is ready to come down they are individually facilitated from height to the ground. The climb facilitator(s) remains on the ground except when help is required at height which cannot be resolved from the ground. With smaller groups or if sufficient ground coverage/facilitator staff is present I'll go up and spend time with the climbers. A debrief may follow during which climber's can share their experience with the group.</p>