

Climbing Park FAQs

Q. Who can use the Climbing Park?

A. Use of the Climbing Park is free for all currently enrolled Cal Poly students and Recreation Center members. In order to use the Climbing Park, all students and members must be registered in the HandKey access system at the Recreation Center.

Q. When is the Climbing Park open?

A. Visit the [Poly Escapes¹](#) for Climbing Park operational hours. Open hours for the Climbing Park change during academic school quarters, holiday breaks, and summer.

Q. Will the Climbing Park be open during rainy/wet weather?

A. No, the Climbing Park is closed during rainy/wet weather. We close the Climbing Park for safety precautions because when the climbing holds get wet they become very slippery.

Q. Do you need to have prior experience to use the Climbing Park?

A. No experience is necessary to use the Climbing Park. The climbing wall and boulder are designed to offer climbing opportunities to all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

Q. What do I need to wear or bring for climbing?

A. We recommend that you wear comfortable clothing that allows free movement. All other necessary climbing equipment including climbing harness, climbing shoes, and climbing gear are provided at no additional cost by Poly Escapes upon check-in.

Q. Can I climb or boulder barefoot or in my street shoes?

A. Special climbing shoes are required, and we do not allow bare feet or street shoes. This policy keeps the climbing holds clean and free of rubber residue and oils.

Q. Can I use my own climbing equipment?

A. You may use your own belay hardware, climbing harness and climbing shoes; however, you assume the responsibility for knowing your belay hardware and climbing harness is in good condition. Personal climbing ropes are not permitted; Poly Escapes will provide all climbing ropes.

Q. Are helmets required?

A. Helmets are not required for top-rope climbing or bouldering but they will be required when lead climbing and lead belaying become available in the future. Helmets will be available to check out at Poly Escapes.

Q. How does the Climbing Park work?

A. To use the Climbing Park you need to check-in and check-out at the Poly Escapes office each time you climb or boulder. You will need to login to the HandKey access system and check-out a climbing harness, climbing shoes and a "Climbing Park" bracelet to wear during your climbing session (just like you check-out basketballs at the Recreation Center Pro Shop). Your bracelet is your pass to climb and boulder. When you are done with your climbing session, return the bracelet, climbing harness and climbing shoes to the Poly Escapes office.

Q. What if I forget to return my "Climbing Park" bracelet, climbing shoes, and climbing harness?

A. All checked-out equipment MUST be returned the same day.

- Failure to return the "Climbing Park" bracelet and climbing shoes after your climbing session results in a \$25 late fee accrued per day, per item. Failure to return these items or pay late fees results in suspended access to the Recreation Center, Poly Escapes, and the Climbing Park until the issue is resolved.
- Failure to return the climbing harness after your climbing session requires that you pay a \$70 replacement fee. Due to the safety factors associated with climbing harnesses, if you don't return it the same day, you have to purchase it. Failure to purchase the climbing harness results in suspended access to the Recreation Center, Poly Escapes, and the Climbing Park until the issue is resolved.

¹ Poly Escapes - http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/poly_escapes

Q. Can I bring my child to the Climbing Park?

A. Yes, children 16 years or older may use the Climbing Park if accompanied by a parent/legal guardian who is a Recreation Center member or a currently enrolled Cal Poly student. A one-day guest pass must be purchased for children. Recreation Center members and currently enrolled Cal Poly students may sponsor two guests per day and the purchase of a [Recreation Center Day Pass](#)² includes use of the Climbing Park.

Q. Can my friends, parents, or siblings use the Climbing Park?

A. Yes, they must be 16 years or older and purchase a [Recreation Center Day Pass](#)². The Recreation Center member or currently enrolled Cal Poly student must be present at the time of purchase. Recreation Center members and currently enrolled Cal Poly students may sponsor two guests per day and the purchase of a [Recreation Center Day Pass](#)² includes use of the Climbing Park.

Q. Can I reserve the Climbing Park for my club or group of friends?

A. Yes, special group reservations are available for clubs and non-student groups. Groups with special reservations have private use of one side of the climbing wall. Fees are \$225 for 1.5 hours, and \$360 for 3 hours. [Email Poly Escapes Coordinator](#)³ for more information. However, if everyone in your group or club is a currently enrolled Cal Poly student or Recreation Center member, then you are all welcome to climb during our operational hours, but you will not have private use of the wall.

Q. Can I belay my friends on the climbing wall?

A. Belay Qualification Classes are offered every quarter. Once you successfully complete and pass a belay qualification class, you will be able to belay your friends. When you check-in at Poly Escapes, you will receive a yellow "Belay" bracelet to wear that notifies the Climbing Park Supervisor that you are authorized to belay.

Q. Will the Climbing Park have hardware for me to use?

(If I successfully complete the Belay Qualification Class, but don't have my own climbing hardware; carabiner, belay device)
A. Yes, you can use the belay hardware available at the wall, just ask the Climbing Wall Supervisor.

Note: You may use your own belay hardware for belaying; however, you assume the responsibility for knowing your belay hardware is in good condition.

Q. Can I lead climb on the wall?

A. At this point, lead climbing is not allowed. It will be available sometime in the future.

² Recreation Center Day Pass - http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/form_policies/show/573

³ Email address for Poly Escapes Coordinator – dwrigh12@calpoly.edu