

CLIMBING COUNCIL CHARTER

1. ACTIVITY COUNCIL NAME

The name shall be the Climbing Council.

2. AUTHORITY

This Climbing Council charter is adopted by authority of the Branch Leadership Committee. As approved by the Branch Leadership Committee, the Climbing Council has the following authority:

- Maintain and revise Clubwide Climbing Standards for approval by Branch Leadership Committee.
- Maintain and revise climbing routes and difficulty ratings
- Develop and maintain organization-wide protocols for Mountaineers Climbing programs, as described in Section 3.

3. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The Climbing Council is a decision-making body. The purpose of the Climbing Council is relationship building, sharing research findings and best practices, sharing and aligning curriculum, reviewing & maintaining activity standards, working together on solutions to relevant problems, and promoting safe and enjoyable Climbing programs.

Climbing includes, but is not limited to, all mountaineering activities, including fifth class and glaciated alpine climbing, cragging, and technical ice climbing, as well as activities that prepare participants to travel on this terrain. The Climbing Council does this by maintaining Clubwide Climbing Standards and by promoting shared ideas and resources across branches.

Climbing Council Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Review/audit and revise all Clubwide Climbing Standards, at least annually.
 - This council is responsible to set the standards for all applicable badges
 - This council is responsible for ensuring that standards are equal to or exceed generally accepted standards for volunteer organizations pursuing climbing activities.
- Share ideas and resources across branches with goals of:
 - Consistency where practical
 - Learning from one another to improve both volunteer and student experience
 - Understanding industry best practices and relevant research, where available
- Make other cross-branch climbing decisions as determined by the Council.
- Course curriculum and assessment
- Leadership development
- Activity-specific risk management
- Use of shared teaching locations
- Climbing route rating and classification

Committees of the Climbing Council:

Several organization-wide climbing-based committees report up to the Climbing Council. All of these committees can be suspended or re-started as deemed necessary by the Climbing Council.

- Climbing Leadership Development Committee
 - This committee designs, reviews, and revises structure, requirements and pathways for leadership levels within climbing at The Mountaineers.
 - Additionally, this committee provides guidance and structure for other leadership-related needs within the climbing committees.
- Alpine Ambassadors Leadership Committee
 - This committee is responsible for the ongoing growth and development of climbing volunteers across the organization
- Climbing Curriculum Committee
 - This committee addresses curriculum concerns, ensures that curriculum includes modern accepted practices, and proposes curriculum standards as needed
- Climbing Technical Advisory Committee
 - This committee assembles to investigate best practices and make recommendations as the Climbing Council deems necessary

4. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Climbing Council consists of 3 members per branch, including the Climbing Chair. Activity chairs and course chairs represent their respective committees at the summit, and should participate in discussions not as individuals but on behalf of the volunteers in their committees.

Climbing Committees shall select three council representatives on an annual basis, and communicate that decision to the council. At least one Council Member for each branch must be in a Committee Leadership position (Committee Chair, Course Chair, etc...)

PARTICIPATION

The Climbing Council may invite any individuals in relevant roles to participate in key discussions.

5. GOVERNANCE

The Climbing Council is led by group governance. There are no elected or appointed Officers or specific positions of leadership. Collectively, the group is responsible for convening regular meetings, ensuring Clubwide Activity Standards for climbing are reviewed annually and submitted to Branch Leadership Committee for approval when updated, and assigning a facilitator for key decisions.

6. DECISION-MAKING

Discussion items may be brought before the Council in person, or electronically. In either case, the following applies:

Quorum

Two-thirds of the members, including at least one member from each branch, must be present to make a decision.

Eligibility

Each Council member, including delegated proxies, is eligible to participate in decision making. Each member has a single vote.

Proxy

In the event that a branch Climbing Council member is unable to attend a meeting, they may delegate their proxy to another individual in attendance. A verifiable proxy may be a vote communicated in, but not necessarily limited to, the following formats: written, email, text message, or voicemail. No individual may hold more than one proxy. Proxies must vote as communicated prior to the meeting. Proxies may not vote on new issues.

Table

In support of transparency and allowing time for Council members to confer with their committee, any Council member may make a motion to table the vote until a specific future date. The Council is obligated to honor a motion to table a topic for up to four weeks. A motion cannot be tabled more than once.

Voting in Meetings

During a Council meeting, any two members can raise a topic for discussion. This is done with a motion, and a second. Once a motion has been seconded, the council may discuss the topic raised until a member calls the question, requesting a vote. Another member must second the call to vote. If a quorum is present, the Council may vote, and a simple majority, including at least one favorable vote per branch, passes the motion.

Moving to Electronic

If a quorum is not present, or at the request of any council member, the vote moves to an electronic vote, and the electronic voting rules below apply.

Electronic Voting

For a vote to be held on an electronic platform, one of the two conditions must be met:

1. Discussion on an approved motion has taken place in a meeting, and the vote has been moved to the electronic platform **OR**
2. After sufficient online discussion, a member poses the question: "Is there anyone who would like to have a special meeting before seeking consensus on a decision?"
 - a. All members must have seven (7) days to respond.
 - b. If a member wishes to have a special meeting, they must schedule and publish a meeting with at least 4-weeks' notice, but no later than 8 weeks after the question is posed (this can be online, but must be open to the entire Council). Those present at the meeting will decide by consensus whether to put the issue to vote during the special meeting or to conduct

the vote on the issue at a later date. If a quorum is not reached at the special meeting, the issue must be put to electronic vote after the meeting.

2. If, after 7 days, no member requests a special meeting, Council may seek electronic vote.
 - a. Once a decision is put to electronic vote, staff will generate an online form, and all members have 14 days to vote. A non-vote after 14 days will be recorded as “abstained”
 - b. Simple majority vote, including one favorable per branch that votes, passes the motion
 - c. Those abstaining are not counted in the vote.

7. MEETINGS

The Climbing Council convenes annual or more frequent meetings called Climbing Summits. Climbing Summits are typically held in the fall - during the months of September, October, or November - and facilitated by a designated Mountaineers staff representative. All Climbing Council members, plus key activity volunteers approved by their branch Climbing Committee chair, are invited to attend Climbing Summits. Additional Council meetings may be held at the discretion of the Climbing Council. A quorum must be present to make a decision on any matter.

8. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

No Climbing Council member shall be removed from the Council except for good cause. The process of removal may be initiated upon a two-thirds vote of the Climbing Council, with the affected Council member counting only toward the quorum. Removal may only be voted for good cause shown at a meeting called for that purpose, with notice of that purpose sent to all Council members and to the Vice President of Branches.

9. AMENDING THE COUNCIL CHARTER

Amendments to this Climbing Council charter may be proposed by any Council member. Approval by the Climbing Council should follow the chartered decision-making process. All amendments must also be approved by the Branch Leadership Committee.

Amendment History:

The Climbing Council Charter was first approved by all 7 branches on October 30, 2022

Addendum: Climbing Council Workflow