

## Sig Rock FT

This field trip can be one day or two. One day meets the requirement, and two days are fun. Schedule this FT before, or after FT3. No preference at all. Up to the sigs.

This field trip is not intended as an evaluation of skills. FT #3 is the evaluation. This is a chance for students to climb outdoors on real rock and have a good time. Time to gain more experience with partner check, communication, belay, rappel, and climbing. There will be additional evening rock skills sessions on the South Plaza wall in April for any students requiring additional practice following FT3 Rock Evaluations.

**Safety:** We can't have fun if we are not safe. **Safe = Fun.**

**Leading:** Basic and new Intermediate instructors should not lead climb unless supervised by a mentor with experience mentoring new leaders on rock.

You may see a variety of ropes. Some skinny, and some fat. This affects belay/rappel (friction) devices. When climbing on any rope for the first time, do a check while the climber is still close to the ground. Have them hang on the rope, and make your test with a short lower. This is probably being overly cautious, but be aware that skinny new ropes will interact differently with rappel/belay devices, than fatter, older, or stiffer ropes.

If you are using tied 1" webbing be extra cautious about knots loosening.

**Ethics and etiquette:** Unless the weather sucks we will not be the only climbers at most crag areas. Also we are often a very large group, and can take over popular climbs. Always greet other climbers. Invite them to share climbs, and offer to pull (remove) our ropes if they want to lead a particular climb. They may not care if there is a top-rope on a climb they wish to lead, but let them know we will accommodate them, including pulling our ropes if asked.

**Camping:** Leave No Trace, Stewardship, and human waste management. Facilities at some climbing areas are limited (Vantage is one). Plan accordingly. Camping at Wanapum State Park is one option for Vantage. The climbing committee will reimburse leaders for camping fees upon request.