

Mecklenburg County Council (MCC) C.O.P.E. & Climbing Instructor Training

Course Name	MCC COPE & Climbing Foundations Instructor Level I (MCC Climbing Towers/Indoor Wall) Training Course
Course Dates	September 11-13, 2026
Course Duration	18 Hours (6 pm Friday to 11 am Sunday)
Course Location	Belk Scout Camp (Climbing Tower & Leadership Development Center); Participants will be camping.
Course Fee	\$60 (Includes meals)
Course Eligibility	- Scouting America Registered Adult (at least 18 years old) - Registered Youth (at least 16 years old and have earned the Climbing Merit Badge)
Course Prerequisites & Required Reading Prior to Start of Course	- SAFE Guarding Youth Training ¹ - Climb On Safely ¹ - Hazardous Weather ¹ - Annual Medical and Health Form (Parts A & B) ² - Read Chapters 2, 5-11, 13-14, and 27 in the "Belay On" Manual ³
Course Provided Equipment	A climbing harness and helmet will be provided for use by each participant during the training course. If you have your own climbing harness and helmet, you may bring them to the weekend course and request approval for use. <i>IMPORTANT NOTE:</i> Prior to granting permission for use, all personal climbing harnesses and helmets will be subject to inspection by the course staff to ensure they meet both Scouting America's and the manufacturer's safety and appropriate use standards.
Course References	"Belay On" Manual ³ "Climb On Safely" Training Outline ³ - Climbing Merit Badge Pamphlet - Climbing Knots including but not limited to the following: Figure 8, Figure 8 Follow Through, Water Knot, Double Fisherman, and Clove Hitch. <i>An excellent on-line resource is "Animated Knots" by Grog (www.animatedknots.com).</i>
Course Registration	Please register online (https://www.mccscouting.org/COPEClimbing1) and pay the course fee by Friday, September 4, 2026
Course Questions	Contact Jason Bennett, jrb287@hotmail.com (704) 877-7245

Course Description

The course is designed to cover the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) and Climbing Instructor Level I Foundations and Climbing Instructor Level I competencies. The course goal is to ensure that you can safely and effectively support MCC Unit, District, and Council climbing/rappelling activities held at either the Belk Scout Camp Tower or Mecklenburg Scout Reservation (MSR) Tower/Indoor Wall. Training will be conducted following the Scouting America guidelines of "Climb On Safely", "Belay On", National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) Standards, and MCC's Climbing/Rappelling Policies and Procedures.

This Level I course is intended for Scouting America registered adults who meet the above prerequisites and are interested in learning and teaching the basics of climbing and rappelling on MCC's Climbing Towers/Indoor Wall. Upon successful completion of the course (to include demonstrating climbing/rappelling core competencies), adults will receive their BSA "Climbing Instructor Level I" training card.

Scouting America registered youth who meet the above prerequisites are also eligible to take the Level I course. Upon successful completion (to include demonstrating climbing/rappelling core competencies), youth will receive a "Climbing Instructor in Training" card.

Please note that this course will only focus on MCC's artificial climbing surfaces (i.e. Towers/Indoor Wall) and will not cover natural rock climbing/rappelling or anchor set-up/safety. We invite attendees from other councils but know that climbing instructor training is council-specific. We've designed our council's training to apply to the towers and equipment we have at our camps. Therefore, completing the MCC course will only transfer to your home council at the discretion of your council's climbing director. Please work with your council's climbing director before registering if you intend this course to satisfy requirements for your council.



¹ Prerequisite training must be current (i.e. within 2 years) or completed before the Instructor Training Card can be issued

² Annual Medical Form (Parts A & B) must be current (i.e. within 12 months)

³ MCC COPE/Climbing Website Address: <https://www.mccscouting.org/COPEClimbing>