

Mecklenburg County Council COPE & Climbing Zip Line Cornhole SOP

Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for facilitating zip line cornhole at either Belk Scout Camp or the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation.

The zip line cornhole activity is an “add-on” activity for zipping. It can be done at unit fun days or District/Council events. All relevant SOP’s for zip line facilitation must be followed at all times.



Equipment

Large 8’x4’ cornhole boards have been constructed along with 5 large 10”x10” cornhole bags per board. MSR has one board which is stored in the shed under the tower and Belk has 2 boards stored in the tower. Alternative scoring options can be included using hula-hoops or a large rope circle around the cornhole board (for example, using spare ropes such as practice ropes or the ropes from the A-Frame activity). The 10”x10” corn filled bags are stored in the COPE & Climbing equipment storage closet at each camp. Also grab one of the milk crates from the storage shed or tower to hold the bags at the top of the tower.



Staging the Cornhole board and bags

The cornhole board is heavy, a minimum of 2 adults should carry the board from the tower to the field. The cornhole board can be placed approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way between the tower and the dismount pad. Due to the slope of the field at MSR, the board will need to be leveled by using a few of the wooden blocks. The blocks have been placed in the shed under the tower and labeled “cornhole”. This area of the field at Belk is relatively flat.

Note: Each board at Belk is formed by joining 2 boards together using 3 bolts, washers, and wing nuts. The board sets are labeled on the underside with a “1” or a “2”.



The cornhole bags can be placed inside a milk crate placed off to the side at the top of the tower. Be sure that this crate is not in the way of the zip facilitation.

Safety Briefing

In addition to the standard safety briefing for zipping, the following points should also be discussed.

- Reinforce the fall zone area at the base of the tower. Cornhole bags could potentially be knocked from the top of the tower.
- Observers should maintain a safe distance from the zip lane and cornhole board.
- No one should climb, sit, or stand on the cornhole board.
- No one should attempt to catch the cornhole bags dropped from the zip line.

Facilitation

Be sure to discuss the zip dismount SOP with the ladder/scaffolding crew so they are familiar with their expectations and responsibilities. Additionally, for zip line cornhole, if the participant did not drop the cornhole bag while zipping, the dismount crew should instruct the participant to drop the bag before pulling them to the ladder/scaffold so both hands are free to hold onto the ladder/scaffold.

Before any zipping may begin, the participants must be CHECK'ed as for all of our climbing activities. The appropriate zipping commands must be issued by the zipper. The zipper should be informed of the proper method to zip including the following:

- The cornhole bag should be dropped, not thrown.
- Do not throw the cornhole bag at another person.
- When returning the trolley, stay clear of the cornhole board to avoid tripping.
- Remain in an upright position unless wearing a full body harness.

The area around the cornhole board must be clear of observers. Once the zip lane has been confirmed clear by the dismount team, the tower tether may be removed after you have also visually confirmed that the zip lane is clear. Now, one of the cornhole bags can be handed to the zipper. The zipper can hold the bag in their hand while holding the zip line tether. The zipper could also hold the bag in their

arms between the tether and their chest. The zipper then will zip from the tower. As they approach the cornhole board, they will drop the bag and attempt to get their best score.

The addition of the cornhole bag does not significantly affect the throughput of the zipline element. After each patrol has dropped 5 bags, the bags can be scored, then retrieved and handed to the next scout(s) waiting to ascend the tower.

If facilitating for a District/Council event where demand is expected to be high, it is suggested to have sign-up slots where patrols may sign up for a time at the tower. This will help prevent having large groups where many scouts are waiting for a turn at any given time. The length of the available sessions may vary depending on number of trained instructors. If there are sufficient trained instructors, other elements such as rappelling or climbing may also be opened at the discretion of the lead instructor.

As with all of our COPE & Climbing elements, at no time should any scout feel pressured to participate or feel as if they are letting their patrol down by not participating. Some scouts may elect not to zip at all, or may choose to zip, but not carry/drop a cornhole bag.

Double Line Zipping at Belk

At Belk Scout Camp since there are two zip lines, it is possible to have two participants zip at the same time. Special precautions must be taken for this variation of the zip line element(s) to be facilitated.

Two sets of rescue equipment must be present at the tower to facilitate this variation of the zip line. For a list of required equipment refer to the MCC COPE & Climbing – Emergency Procedures SOP document.

If large numbers of observers are going to be present, consider staking out the zip line corridor and marking it with caution tape. The corridor should be at least as wide as the rock garden around the tower and extend from the pair of poles at the base of the tower past the zip line dismount platform (concrete pad).

An instructor trained in operating the zip line should be present at the top of the tower. It is strongly recommended that a second instructor also be present at the top of the tower to help CHECK the facilitation of the element, keeping an eye on tethers, harnesses, helmets, connections, etc. It is also strongly recommended that trained instructors be present on the ground to supervise communications between the ladder dismount team and the staff at the top of the tower.

The ladder dismount crew must be trained in the additional considerations for two participants on the zip lines at the same time. As usual, before anyone zips the dismount ladder must be out of the way of both zip lines, on the left side (the lake side) of the concrete pad. Once both participants have come to a stop the participant on the zip line closest to the lake should be dismounted first. The goal is not to cross the ladder below a zip line with a participant on the line. Once the zip line closest to the lake has been cleared, then the participant on the zip line closest to the BMX track may be dismounted. The ladder must then be returned to the lake side of the concrete pad to await the next set of zip line participants.

Due to the order of dismounting, any heavier set participants should be sent down the left side zip line – the one closest to the lake. In this fashion, they will hang in their harness for less time.

Suggested Scoring

To make the scoring as fair as possible, each patrol should have the opportunity to drop 5 cornhole bags. This can be any combination of patrol members. After the patrol has dropped 5 bags, the dismount crew can tabulate the score. 150 points for each bag that went through the hole, 100 points for bags that are on the board, and 50 points for each bag within the rope circle.

The suggested scoring option noted above is intended as a sample. For unit fun days, the scouts involved should be encouraged to determine how they would like to play and score the game. For District/Council events, the organizing scouts/SPL should determine how scoring should be handled.

Daily Shutdown

At the conclusion of the activity the cornhole board should be returned to its storage location. At MSR, this is the inside of the shed at the base of the climbing tower. At Belk, the boards should be disassembled and stored between the interior steps and the north face of the tower. Please cover/wrap the boards with the tarp to help protect them from water that leaks into the tower during rainstorms.



Remember the boards are heavy, at least 2 adults should carry the boards.

The zip line tether should be inspected and logged and the cornhole bags returned to the shelf in the equipment storage closet. If the bags are damp or wet, please do not stack them so they have an opportunity to dry. If any of the bags are damaged, please make a note on the daily inspection sheet and notify the COPE & Climbing Committee.

Cornhole Bag Construction

Measure and cut 2 pieces of duck cloth to 10 ¼" x 20 ½"

Lay the 2 pieces on top of each other, then fold them in half resulting in an approximate 10" square.

Using straight pins, secure the cloth together.

Using a sewing machine with heavy duty thread, stitch around the bag approximately ¼" from the edge.

Continue around the perimeter of the bag, until there is about 2 ½" remaining.

Turn the sewn bag inside out so that the seams are inside the bag.

Fill the bag with 4 cups of whole kernel corn feed.

Close the hole used to fill the bag by manually sewing it closed.