

JULY 1, 2014

PARK DIRECTIVE 3085

**RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Rappelling and rock climbing on state park property is permitted at approved sites only.

I.    SITE SELECTION

- A.    Superintendents of state parks that have sites considered desirable for rappelling and/or rock climbing may submit requests to the Director of Arkansas State Parks for approval.
- B.    Requests shall set forth complete details of the site, indicating the site location, detailed description, resource impacts on parks' natural and cultural resources, recreation use, facilities, and long term development or master plan, safety hazards, weather and time-of-day influences, proposed rules and signing for the site, and degree of supervision considered necessary for use by the public.
- C.    Approved sites will have signage indicating the location is approved for rappelling and rock climbing. Signage shall include any restriction which may apply, such as time-of-day, plus instructions for rappellers and climbers to check in at the park visitor center prior to rappelling and/or climbing.

II.   RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING IN ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

The following rules and regulations will apply to rappelling and rock climbing in Arkansas State Parks.

- A.    Once each year, rappellers and/or rock climbers must complete a rappelling / climbing checklist and sign a liability release form (see attachments).
- B.    A parent or legal guardian must complete the check list and liability release form for all minors; those age seventeen (17) and under.

- C. Rappellers and/or rock climbers must notify staff at the park visitor center each day they participate.
- D. Types of climbing considered free soloing\* or highball bouldering\*\* are prohibited.
  - \*Free soloing – climbing without safety equipment at various heights.
  - \*\* Highball bouldering – climbing without safety equipment at limited heights (15 feet) with assistance of spotter and foam crash pad for landing.
- E. All rappellers and climbers should be accompanied by a spotter or another participant.
- F. Designated rappelling and climbing sites are considered vertical trails. Rappellers and climbers are expected to stay on trail routes and refrain from making rogue trails.
- G. Rappellers / climbers shall use equipment and safety gear appropriate to the activity. The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism (ADPT) is not liable or responsible for any portable or temporary equipment left by rappellers or climbers.
- H. Rappellers / climbers are prohibited from attaching or placing any permanent equipment, hold, fasteners, or anchor points. Any existing permanent equipment is not maintained or supported by Arkansas State Parks or ADPT. Rappellers and/or climbers assume all liability and risk for use.
- I. Rappelling and climbing participants shall conduct themselves in a courteous and orderly manner and abide by local, state, and federal laws, as well as obey all park rules and regulations.
- J. In any and all cases, state park officials have complete and final authority over all sites and retain the authority to revoke any privileges issued for rappelling / climbing activities.

Reviewed by the Arkansas Legislative Administrative Rules and Regulations Sub-Committee on June 11, 2014.

Attachments: --Checklist  
 --Liability Release

APPROVED BY:   
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 GREG BUTTS, DIRECTOR  
 Arkansas State Parks



## Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

### RAPPELLING AND ROCK CLIMBING CHECKLIST

1. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber ensures that his/her equipment is in good working condition and is appropriately rated for the subject activity.

2. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber certifies that they possess and will use appropriate safety gear for this activity.

3. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber will be accompanied by the person named below:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (CELL PREFERRED): \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber has signed the liability release form for ADPT and has been verbally cautioned that any existing permanent anchor points he/she may find on routes are not maintained or supported by ADPT.

5. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber ensures that he/she will not install any permanent equipment or anchor points.

6. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber agrees to restrict activities to designated rappelling and rock climbing areas within the state park.

7. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber understands that any incident resulting in personal injury or damage to state park property must be reported immediately to uniformed park staff.

8. **Yes / No** Rappeller / climber has received permission to rappel or climb from the park superintendent or designee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RAPPELLER / ROCK CLIMBER'S NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
RAPPELLER / ROCK CLIMBER'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



# Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

## RAPPELLING / ROCK CLIMBING LIABILITY RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am about to participate in rappelling / rock climbing.

**PARTICIPANT** - PRINT NAME

I am participating entirely upon my own initiative, risk and responsibility. I fully and completely accept any consequences that arise from conditions within designated rappelling / climbing areas, including failure of any anchors or other equipment that may exist.

I, or a member of my family shall be liable for any and all rescue and/or evacuation recovery costs incurred by the State as a result of my participating in rappelling and rock climbing in Arkansas State Parks.

I do hereby agree adhere to all Arkansas State Park rules which are available at the park Visitor Center.

Therefore, in consideration of the permission extended to me by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, I do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, remise, release and forever discharge the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and its officers, agents, employees, and assigns from any and all claims, actions or causes of actions on the account of my death, or on account of any injury to me which may occur from any cause during such rappelling and/or rock climbing activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE**  
(PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IF MINOR)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

Emergency Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (C): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Emergency Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (C): \_\_\_\_\_