

## Trapper Trails Council Unit Canyoneering Policy

**CANYONEERING:** The following policy must be observed in all canyoneering activities where the canyon to be descended is rated Class III or higher according to the ACA Canyon Rating System:

**C1:** All canyoneering activities must be conducted under the supervision of at least two instructors. One instructor must either be a qualified BSA Canyon Leader or certified with an approved non-BSA canyoneering certification program. BSA Canyon Leader qualifications are valid for three years. If canyoneering certification is obtained outside of the BSA, proof of continuing education and certification must be provided and approved every two years.

**C2:** BSA Canyon Leaders may only supervise the descent of canyons that are approved for the instructor's level of qualification. (e.g. a BSA Canyon Leader I may only supervise the descent of an approved Level I canyon)

**C3:** Group size shall not exceed 12 unless the land manager or applicable permit requires a smaller group size.

**C4:** A person trained to a minimum level of wilderness and remote first aid (16 hours) must be present during the canyoneering activity.

**C5:** The supervising instructor must have descended the canyon prior to the activity, and where possible, a recent descent of the canyon should be done. In addition, at least one other person must have the knowledge, skill, and experience to safely exit the canyon and summon assistance in the event of an emergency.

**C6:** Prior to the descent, each participant must attend a ground school session and an on-rock session suitable for the canyon to be descended. The ground school shall include rappels with elements and heights consistent with the canyon to be descended.

**C7:** If the canyon has the potential to necessitate swimming, then all instructors and participants must successfully pass the BSA swim check and a dual buddy system (person in front and behind) must be implemented.

**C8:** The canyon to be descended shall be appropriate according to the mental, physical, emotional, and social maturity of the participants. Boy Scouts may descend approved Level I canyons. Older Boy Scouts (13 years and older), Varsity Scouts, and Venturers may descend approved Level I and II canyons. Cub Scouts and Webelos may not participate in canyoneering activities. No scouting group may participate in class C water canyons, or canyons that have an ACA additional risk factor of R and above.

**C9:** A single-line rappel with a fireman belay may be used in limited circumstance when under the supervision of a Canyon Leader II.

**C10:** All participants shall practice the principals of leave no trace. Avoid walking on or disturbing cryptobiotic soil.

**C11:** The approved non-BSA Canyon Leader training program includes: Obtaining BSA Climbing Level II Instructor qualification, successful completion of the ACA Rigging/Rescue course, successful completion of the ACA Canyon Leadership course, and having experience in canyons with no less than three descents as the leader. Once a Canyon Leader candidate successfully completes these steps, they shall complete a Practical Field Exam, Practical Skills Exam, and written exam administered by the Council canyoneering staff to then become qualified as a BSA Canyon Leader.

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