

Ropes Challenge Course

COVID-19 Guidelines



- BEAR will facilitate groups of 10 or less on the ropes challenge course, including ropes course facilitators.
- Participants are encouraged to wear a mask throughout their experience on the ropes challenge course, but may not be required to wear face coverings when 6 feet social distancing can be maintained.
- When appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained, all participants and facilitators **MUST** wear a face covering, even in the outdoors.
- It is at the complete discretion of the course facilitator to dictate when/if face coverings need to be worn during any game or on any element, and all participants must be able and willing to abide by the facilitator's instructions.
- Participants who cannot or will not abide by the facilitator's instructions regarding face coverings may be asked to leave the course.
- Facilitators will wear a face mask when in close proximity to participants for the purposes of:
 - checking the safety and security of harnesses, helmets, hardware, ropes, etc.
 - spotting participants on ground and low elements
 - belaying as a group with participants
 - attending to participants for first aid
 - whenever 6 feet social distance cannot be maintained consistently.
- All hard surfaces at the ropes course will be sanitized using approved spray cleaners and paper towel pre and post use, such as gates, hand holds, props, etc.
- All soft surfaces will be sanitized using approved sanitizers, such as non-life critical ropes, hand rugs, props, etc.
- All helmets, carabiners and belays will be sanitized according to manufacturer's instructions in order to maintain the integrity of the device and not void any warranty, or left untouched for 3 days after being used for a facilitation to allow for the dying off of any potential pathogens.
- All ropes and harnesses will be left untouched for 3 days after being used for a facilitation to allow for the dying off of any potential pathogens.

Disclosure of health

- In order to keep participants and staff safe and healthy, we require that all participants of the ropes challenge course complete a health disclosure form prior to course use. Staff will review the form to ensure that health conditions do not exist that may pose an increased risk of injury or exacerbation of a condition to participants while engaging in ropes course activities.

COVID screening

- **All staff, participants, and family members are responsible for disclosing any symptoms of illness they may be experiencing prior to or upon arrival at the ropes challenge course.**
- BEAR staff will NOT conduct explicit pre-programming health assessments. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the individual to take action and disclose if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - fever over 100.4° Fahrenheit
 - cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - sore throat
 - chills or repeated shaking with chills
 - unexplained muscle pain
 - new loss of taste or smell
 - vomiting
 - diarrhea
- Staff, participants or family members present for programming who are experiencing any of the above symptoms **must be excluded from in-person work and attending programming** until they have been symptom-free for 14 days. We understand that this is more conservative than other guidelines, but is intended to provide the safest environment for everyone.

Participants that are at higher risk for COVID complications.

- If participants or parents/guardians of participants feel they or their youth are at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or have a high risk of exposure from other settings, they can choose not to participate in programming.
- If you have concerns about underlying health conditions and how it may impact your ability to participate in group programming due to COVID, please contact our staff in advance to discuss our safety measures. Good faith efforts will be made to accommodate special needs or requests.

*We value the safety and health of our program participants, staff and community.
Together we can take the steps necessary to protect everyone equally.*