

Associate Membership Evaluation Climb



Applicant: _____ Date of Evaluation Climb: _____

The Applicant passed: The RCSC _____ or A Safety Evaluation _____

Evaluator: _____

Climbing Area: _____

Route Name: _____

Rating: _____

No. of Pitches: _____

(Circle one score per skill. Please make comments for any score less than 3)

Knots & Rope handling	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Signals & Communication	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Belaying Skills	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Anchors & Gear Handling	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Climbing Technique	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Approach & Descent	(3) Excellent	(2) Satisfactory	(1) Marginal	(0) Failure
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Comment Required

Additional Comments

A Passing score is 11, with no more than ONE marginal and NO Failures

Any failed categories? Yes or No (circle one)

Any marginal categories? None, One, Two (circle one)

TOTAL SCORE? _____

Did the Applicant pass? Yes or No (circle one)

Submit online at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nVS9r6EpdLHKfJqS-0eYQmBo8cJV59TaKfPVfGQI5iA/viewform>

Or email to: David Pylman, purpledave21@gmail.com

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Scoring Guidelines for Evaluator:

Please grade the Applicants performance in each category on a scale of 3 to 0 using the following criteria; (3) excellent (without error), (2) satisfactory (minor correction), (1) marginal (cause for concern, possible failure) and (0) failed skill (continual or fatal error). Grade each individual section and subtract points from the maximum score of three (3) as issues are identified. Comments must be provided for each score or the document will not be accepted.

Minimum passing score is 11 with no more than 1 marginal and no failures.

- If at any time, you find it necessary to take control of the climb for reasons of safety, inform the Applicant of your reasons and document the reasons on this form and forward it to the Safety Chair as a failed evaluation.
- The chosen route must meet the qualifications on the following page. Completing this form, filling in all the required fields and submitting it online will send it directly to the safety committee for review. You may also print the PDF on the website and email or regular mail the completed form to the safety chair.

Thank you for giving back to the climbing community!

Applicant and Route Qualifications:

You may apply to become an Associate Member of the SCMA by either passing the Safety Evaluation given by a member of the Safety Committee or by passing the SCMA Rock Climbing Safety Course. You must safely lead or follow two different evaluation climbs with two different Regular Members.

- The climb (of your choice) must be a recognized 5th class traditional climb of at least 3 pitches, requiring placement of predominantly traditional equipment for protection and belay anchors. You can choose any route that meets these requirements without pre-approval. Evaluation Climbs do not have to be done on a club trip.
- No more than three climbers should be on this climb, with only one Applicant evaluated per climb. Two climbers are preferred; however, a third member may be helpful with the evaluation. The Applicant being evaluated must belay both the leader and the third climber, and must clean all gear on the route.
- Be prepared for this climb by bringing all the items that may be needed such as a cleaning tool, slings, safety cord and "10 essentials". The successful evaluation climb should not be a teaching climb, but one where you display your capability.
- The Evaluator may be leading some, or all, of the pitches, but you must perform functions such as attaching to the anchor, belaying, rope handling and removing gear placements.
- You are being evaluated as a safe climbing partner; any unsafe actions could result in failure of the Evaluation Climb.

Helpful Suggestions for a successful climb:

The Applicant is expected to be a safe second on multi-pitch climbs. The evaluation climb is not expected to be a climb where corrections are being made. However, please carefully watch safety practices and correct them as needed. Keep the scoring criteria in mind while correcting safety issues. Review the multi-pitch climbing methods listed below. Complete the evaluation form providing comments for each deduction and submit it online as soon as possible to the Safety Chair.

- After selecting the route of three or more pitches, have the Applicant locate and point out the route start and climb line. Discuss the planned for the day. Stress that the descent should be considered before the climb. Discuss how long the climb and descent should take. A watch should be brought, so that progress can be gauged and a decision made to retreat if necessary.
- Discuss the need to take at least some of the "10 essentials" on long climbs: knife, headlamp, matches or lighter, extra food, extra water, extra clothing, raingear, space blanket (or plastic trash bag), first aid kit, sunglasses, sunscreen, whistle, map/topo and compass. (Most of this can remain at the base of the climb at Tahquitz.) A knife should always be carried on climbs, within reach, not in a pack. The climbing pack should be very small, if any. Emphasize that if too much gear is carried, the climbing may be slowed and the party benighted unnecessarily, creating a safety risk.
- Discuss how to deal with the following emergencies: (1) rain and lightning, (2) unplanned bivouac, (3) accident, (4) hypothermia (5) emergency bail/rappel route.
- Explain the importance of flaking out the rope at the beginning of the climb and explain rope handling during the climb, ending with coiling the rope.
- If communication is likely to be difficult because of wind or pitches that go around corners or over overhangs, agree in advance on signals. (e.g. the leader, after anchoring, pulling up all the rope, and putting the second on belay, give three hard tugs on the rope.)
- Discuss cleaning of the leader's protection and systematic racking of gear. Show whatever method you use, but explain that other climbers may have different methods and the second should follow the method used by whoever brings the rack and/or leads the pitches. Stress the importance of not dropping equipment, keeping everything attached to something and saying "Got it" or something similar to be sure that equipment is not dropped during hand-offs.
- Provide beta as needed during the climb and suggestions of climbing techniques that might help. Rope up at the base of the climb and don't chance soloing an easy initial pitch or section.
- The Applicant should have learned the techniques needed to accomplish the chosen climb. Excessive instruction or correction could indicate that the Applicant has not acquired the skills necessary to pass the evaluation and the score should indicate that.
- If you are unsure before the climb starts you may want to get another member to follow the Applicant to ensure that they are belaying and climbing safely. Do not assume that the Applicant has mastered any rescue techniques. Be certain this evaluation climb is well within your leading ability. Carefully double-check tie in knots and all belay and rappelling set-ups.

CLIMB SAFE AND HAVE FUN!