

CWA Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program Provider Training Description

Prerequisites to joining Provider Pool

1. Current membership in the CWA (self or employer).
2. 21 years of age.
3. Current first aid and CPR (American Red Cross Basic - 5.5 to 6.5 hours, or equivalent).
4. A resume or curriculum vitae showing a minimum of 200 hours of work experience as a climbing instructor, showing expertise in indoor climbing settings.
5. Climbing ability: 5.9 top rope and 5.8 lead on artificial structures.
6. Current CWA Certified Climbing Wall Instructor.*
7. Two non-related professional references, including contact information and phone number.
8. A signed agreement and attestation on file.
9. Proof of insurance.

*If the candidate is not a current CWA Certified Climbing Wall Instructor, the candidate may complete an alternative qualification procedure documenting that the candidate meets the requirements of becoming a provider but showing a minimum of 400 hours of work experience as a climbing instructor. Exceptional and wide-ranging indoor climbing teaching experience, prior experience as an instructor or guide, or other certification will be considered as evidence of qualification. Completion of a provider training course may or may not be required as part of the alternative qualification procedure.

Training Description

This training will provide an overview for the CWA Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program for prospective instructor pool members. As the program evolves, this training will also serve as continuing education option for instructor pool members.

This training will review the program policy manual, the CWA Industry Practices, the student manual and curricula and general course flow. Provider candidates must be familiar with the primary program documents prior to attending the training. A portion of the training will be spent evaluating the provider candidate's skills, in scenarios to develop provider skills in consistent nationwide delivery of course content, fair student evaluation, providing effective student feedback, risk management, and in discussing the consensus pass/fail standards.

The goals of the provider training course are:

1. To educate provider pool members in the Climbing Wall Instructor certification program and to prepare provider pool members to be effective advocates for the program;

2. To help provider pool members understand the program's policies and procedures;
3. To orient the provider pool members to the CWA Industry Practices.
4. To train provider pool members in the program curricula.
5. To train provider pool members in evaluating and applying course standards, use of the evaluation instrument, and how to assess climbing wall students fairly.
6. To train provider pool members in the use of the course/provider evaluation.
7. To communicate the risk management and safety measures to be employed during the course.
8. To provide a forum for provider pool members to have questions answered and discuss program issues;
9. To train provider pool members to administer and deliver courses within the CWI certification program properly;
10. To ensure that the certification program is delivered with consistency and quality.

Training Format

The CWI program provider course is a eight to twelve hour course. Some lecture, but emphasis on demonstration, collaborative learning, evaluation and group discussion of the program and curricula. We will review course flow from successful courses and participate in teaching scenarios to help prospective providers be able to offer a consistent course, consistent feedback to students, and a consistent standard of examination.

Provider Training Course Outline

1. Overview of CWI Certification Program
 - a. Rationale for Program
 - b. Place of CWI Program within framework of US Climbing Instructor Training.
 - c. Discussion of Program Choices, e.g. Climbing Wall Instructor vs. Climbing Wall Manager
2. Maintaining the Program
 - a. Program policies and procedures
 - b. Training trainers - creating an open instructor pool while maintaining consistency, common standards and quality.
 - c. Trainer/Course review and evaluation - quality control issues.
 - d. Adequate facilities - quality control issues.
3. The CWA Industry Practices
 - a. The purpose and limitations of the Industry Practices
 - b. The topics covered by the Industry Practices
 - c. Review of practices pertinent to the CWI Certification Program
 - i. Client Orientation, Training, and Assessment
 - ii. Personal Protective Equipment (covered in student manual)
 - iii. Climbing and Facility Operations
 - iv. Annexes (also in student manual)

4. The Curricula - CWI Certification Program Student Manual
 - a. Manual Review
 - b. Course Topics and Goals
 - c. Course Prerequisites - discussion: dealing with disabilities
 - d. Professionalism and Ethics for a climbing instructor
 - e. Understanding practical risk management
 - f. Legal Principles for climbing instructors
 - i. Negligence
 - ii. Reasonable professional
 - g. Client Orientation: The Importance of the Information Exchange
 - h. Climbing Instruction
 - i. Top Rope Instruction
 - ii. Lead Instruction
 - iii. Auto Belay Instruction or Orientation
 - iv. Teaching Belaying
 1. Top rope, passive device
 2. Top rope, mechanical assist device
 3. Lead, passive device
 4. Lead, mechanical assist device
 - i. Equipment and Facility Inspection
 - j. Bouldering and Spotting
 - k. Emergency Management
 - l. Other Topics
 - i. Indoor vs. outdoor climbing; making the transition to the outdoors
 - ii. Climbing movement
 - iii. General Discussion - what to include and exclude, let the standards be your guide.
5. Sample Course Flow
 - a. Course Elements:
 - i. Assess course pre-requisites;
 - ii. Introductions;
 - iii. Facility management: facility tour, care, inspection, warning signage, facility rules;
 - iv. Review pre-assigned work: Students must have mastered written material prior to course;
 - v. Professionalism and the role of the Climbing Wall Instructor;
 - vi. Applied Risk Management;
 - vii. Effective teaching and learning – clarity, relevance, practice and repetition;
 1. Demonstrate an expert lesson;
 2. Let your students teach one another to better evaluate their skills and knowledge;
 3. The importance of instructional objectives and specific goals;
 - viii. Equipment management: selection, care, use, inspection;

1. The importance of manufacturers' instructions for use;
 2. Equipment retirement, useful lifetime for safety equipment;
 - ix. Patron orientation/training
 1. The information exchange;
 2. Duty to notify;
 - x. Review, demonstration, students teach:
 1. Basic movement skills
 2. Bouldering and Spotting
 3. Auto belay device management
 4. Top rope climbing and belaying
 5. Lead climbing and belaying
 - xi. Incident response
 - xii. Emergency procedures
 - xiii. Candidate evaluation
 - xiv. Candidate interviews
 - xv. Course debrief and evaluation: Evaluations sent to CWA.
6. Sample Scenarios and Exercises
 - a. Sample CWI candidates teaching a bouldering session. Demonstration of trainer review and feedback.
 - b. Discussion of consensus standards. Risk management concerns.
 - c. Review of belay techniques using passive and mechanical assist belay devices to develop Instructor Pool consistency. Discussion: What techniques are common in a climbing gym, but not recommended? Defeating the cam in mechanical assist belay devices, how and under what circumstances. What to include and exclude?
 - d. Sample CWI candidates teaching indoor top rope class. Trainer review and feedback. Pass/fail standards. Risk management concerns - when to intervene?
 - e. Sample CWI candidates teaching indoor lead climbing class. Trainer review and feedback. Pass/fail standards. Risk management concerns - when to intervene?
7. VII. Training Review and Debrief