

Basic Mountaineering Class 2017
Sponsored by Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue

Philosophy

The emphasis for this course is to provide you with the basic skills needed to climb safely with a group in a range of environments from sport climbing to alpine mountaineering, where travel may involve traveling on glaciers or negotiation of steep slopes of rock and snow. This course is not meant to train people in all the skills needed to lead groups on rock or glaciers. We will not cover in detail the use of map and compass, weather and avalanche assessment, crevasse rescue, and leading on rock, which are all needed to be a well-rounded mountaineer capable of leading others. However, those taking this course should have the skills needed to participate with others who do have more experience.

Class Activities

There will be three classroom sessions, two held at the Obsidian Lodge (see map) and one at the climbing wall at Willamalane Sports and Recreation Center in Springfield. There will also be two field sessions, one covering basic rock climbing skills, the other covering snow and glacier travel skills. These field sessions will be held regardless of weather.

Class 1: Introduction to Climbing: Obsidian Lodge, Monday April 10, 2017, 6:45-9:00 PM. The doors will open at 6:30 so please feel free to come early and practice knots and get to know the instructors and other students.

Topics for this class include:

- What are the class goals
- What we expect from you
- Knots, knots, knots
- An overview of the different types of climbing and rating systems
- How do we know what kind of climb it is (i.e., reading route descriptions)?
- General overview of clothing and equipment for different types of climbs
- Resources for learning more about climbing

Class 2: Rock Skills: Willamalane Sports and Recreation Center, Thursday, April 13, 7:00 – 9:00

Topics include:

- A review of the knots
- Safety Checks
- Climbing commands
- Basics of how to belay and climb
- Introduction to rappelling
- Climbing technique

Rock Field Session: Either Saturday or Sunday, April 15 or 16 at Skinners Butte Columns, starting at 8:00 AM. (Half the class will attend the Saturday field session, the other half will attend on Sunday)

- At this field session, participants will have the chance to practice knots, belaying, climbing with a top rope, climbing using a fixed line for protection, and rappelling.

Class 3: Snow Skills: Obsidian Lodge, Thursday, April 20, 7:00 – 9:00 PM (Note: Doors will again open at 6:30 if you want to review knots or belays).

- Topics include:
- Objective and subjective dangers in high altitude climbing
- Safety considerations in glacier travel (party size and skills needed in group)
- Proper use of ice axe when traveling on a glacier (self-belay)
- Anchors and belays on snow
- Self-arrest techniques
- Roping up properly for glacier travel
- How to negotiate crevasses safely

Snow Field Session: Sunday, April 23 – all day; location and start time to be determined based on snow conditions. We will practice the skills covered in Thursday's class session. Transportation to the field location is not included in the course. We will have some provision for carpooling for those who wish to do so.

Equipment

Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue will provide all ropes, anchors and group gear needed for the field sessions. We also have the following personal gear available for your use: Climbing harness, rock helmet, prusik loop, a belay device, and locking carabiners. We also have a few ice axes to lend; you may need to rent or borrow one. Our supply of personal gear for loan is limited. We encourage you to use your own gear if you have it.

"Graduation" Climbs

The Obsidians normally schedule at least two climbs in spring or early summer that are available for signup to graduates of the Basic Mountaineering class before they are made available to others. Typically these are climbs such as Diamond Peak or Mt Thielsen. These climbs are not included in the fee for the course. Obsidians charges \$3 for members and \$15 for nonmembers to participate in their climbs.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. (climbs@obsidians.org).

Obsidian Lodge Location

