

Vertically Inclined Rock Gym - *Lead Check*

Goal: To ensure that patrons lead climbing at Vertically Inclined Rock Gym are doing so in a manner that is congruent with the lead climbing safety policies of the facility. ***Only Vertically Inclined Staff are permitted to teach lead climbing / belaying in the facility. Please refrain from conducting crash courses for friends. If any coaching or in-depth teaching is done prior to the belay check Vertically Inclined reserves the right to refuse to proceed with the check.***

Cost: \$5.00

Duration: 15 minutes

Prerequisites: Individuals must be 14 years of age unless they have completed a summer camp or semester program at VIRG in which they received instruction in Lead climbing and belaying
Individuals must already be certified to top rope in the gym
Individuals must already possess some lead climbing experience either outside, in another gym or through a course taught at VIRG
The patron must be able to demonstrate proper lead climbing and correct lead belaying to be successful in the check
The patron must provide a partner for the check. This can be another climber taking the Lead Check or a climber who is lead checked in this facility

Procedure: *You (or your parents if under 18) must have signed a waiver in order to climb in this facility, if you have not, please inform the front desk person that you still need to fill out a waiver.* The VIRG staff person will then escort you to a moderate lead climb. You will be asked if you have read this document and understand it. If two are taking the test, one person will be asked to tie in and the other to set up the belay. The climber will be asked to climb, clipping the first and second quickdraws. At the second draw they will do a 'take' where the belayer will hold their weight on the rope. When the climber is ready to proceed, they will continue and clip the third draw and fall once they reach the top of the climb **without clipping the fourth** draw. The climber must demonstrate proper clipping technique. The climber should then continue up the wall, and be lowered by the belayer. The two will then switch positions and repeat the procedure. If the check is being administered to a single climber they must provide a willing lead climber. The Lead Check entails the following items:

- ***Proper assemblage of their harness*** including all buckles being doubled back (the staff may provide assistance if it is a rental harness and unfamiliar to them). *Homemade harness's are not permitted in this facility.*
- The client must ***tie in through the proper points on the harness with a follow through figure eight knot.*** Tying in with a knot on a bight attached to a locking gate carabiner is not acceptable.
- The client must show evidence of some sort of a ***planned communication system*** consisting of signals between climber and belayer (on belay...climbing...climb on...take...got you...down).
- The client must demonstrate a ***proficient lead belay technique with a friction device***, (Tube or plate style such as ATC, Airbrake etc.) maintaining an appropriate amount of slack while keeping a solid hand on the brake at all times (*if you let go of the brake during the belay you will fail the check*). Figure Eights are not permitted as belay devices in this facility. Although Grigri's are allowed on the floor they are not permitted during the lead check. If you plan to lead with a Grigri, inform the staff member administering your check so that they may also check your proficiency with that device.
- All clients are required to ***hold 1 "take" and 1 lead fall*** during the test. They should be able to lock off the device with no hesitation. The climber must demonstrate that they are comfortable in a lead fall.
- The Climber must demonstrate proficient clipping technique. This involves no back clipping or 'z' clipping. In the event a back clip or a 'z' clip goes unnoticed by the climber, the test will be terminated.
- The belayer must ***lower the climber at a reasonable speed*** and in a safe manner. The belayer must also be proficient in the taking and feeding of the rope to the climber and belay from a reasonable position relative to the climber, the wall and the draws.

Pass or Fail?, Remember, the lead check is for your own safety and ours and is given in your best interest. It is up to the VIRG staff person to determine the extent to which the client has performed the tasks required. A customer that does not pass the check cannot lead climb for the rest of the day but can re-take the check after 24 hours (you must pay to take the test again). Customers who pass the check are required to come to the front desk to have their user card punched for lead climbing.

Thanks and Climb Safe!