

Responsible Climbing in the South



It is our responsibility as climbers to know, understand and follow the rules for each area where we climb.

The Obed Wild and Scenic River is a wonderful resource, which has allowed climbers to pursue their passion. Climbing at the Obed is a privilege, which requires responsible behavior. Our goal as rock climbers must be to have a positive impact and maintain the Obed as a climbing resource for ourselves and future climbers. The following should serve as a basic behavior guideline for the responsible climber.

ETHICS - A general code of behavior that when violated will result in shame, guilt, sleepless nights, being the butt of jokes .

1. COURTESY

- a. Be courteous to the park and the rock.
- b. Be courteous to the other climbers and park employees that you meet while climbing or hiking. All those people can be your friend.
- c. Don't be a litterbug. Pack out all that you pack in.
- d. If you are planning a large group climbing trip at the OBED, please be considerate of other climbers. Pick your outing in low use areas and on low use days. If other climbers want to use a route that your group is holding (by top rope or otherwise) let other climbers play through.
- e. Please keep Fido on a leash or leave at the house.
- f. Bury your poo in a way that Fido cannot get at it. Many dogs are poo eaters.

2. TOP ROPING

- a. Please do not top rope through anchors. Please top rope through your own draws
- b. It is not necessary to rappel from fixed anchors. If the length of your rope allows, it is OK to lower from fixed anchors.
- c. Please do not set up top ropes and leave rope unattended. This practice excludes others from climbing.

3. CHALK

- a. Brush your projects.
- b. Give your warm ups a brush too.
- c. If you make tick marks make 'em small, then brush them away when you are done
- d. If you spill chalk, clean it up.

4. FIXED GEAR

- a. Fixed gear has been left as a convenience and for safety, not to be scarfed. Scarfed gear has a tendency to explode.
- b. Long sticks at the base of cliffs may be the stick clips. Do not use them for another purpose or break 'em.

5. BOLTING

- a. The **BOLTING MORATORIUM IS STILL IN EFFECT**
- b. The Climbing Management Plan is available at: www.nps.gov/obed/pphtml/documents.html
- c. Do not chop bolts or rebolt without agreement from the ETCC and NPS.

6. CHIPPING OR MANUFACTURING OR GLUE/BOLT ON HOLDS

- a. DON'T!!!

7. TOPPING OUT

- a. Do not top out the climbs. The vegetation on the top of the cliff line is precious and should not be stepped on.

8. TREES AND VEGETATION

- a. The vegetation at the bottom of the cliff is also precious and should not be cut, broken, stepped on, stripped or hurt in any way. Be nice to the trees.
- b. Please use the well-maintained trails at and to the climbing areas.

9. CAMPING

- a. Camping is allowed in the park, however you must be 200 feet from the trail, water or parking area.
- b. Do not camp in the South Clear parking area, this is private property.
- c. Don't camp under the popular climbs.
- d. Do not camp at the boulder field.
- e. If you camp at Dell and Marty's, follow the posted rules.

10. COMMUNICATION

- a. Communicate with the ETCC and Park Service whenever you have a concern.
- b. If you see someone doing things that are not right call 'em out. Enforcement of the above ethics is by you.

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LITTLE ROCK CITY (A.K.A. THE STONE FORT) Chattanooga, TN

1. **SIGN IN** – every time you climb. Sign in at the Pro shop / main office.
2. **PARK IN DESIGNATED AREAS** – park only in areas marked “Climber Parking”. Spaces are limited, so please carpool.
3. **WEAR A SHIRT** - Shirts must be worn in the parking lot and as you cross the rough. If you are not in the woods, you must be wearing a shirt. (This is a golf course after all.)
4. **STAY IN THE WOODS** - Stay off of the golf course. Do not climb on boulders in the golf course. Be quiet and maintain a low profile. No yelling, no swearing, no loud music, no monkey business.
5. **NO DOGS ALLOWED**

HORSE PENS 40 Steele, AL

1. **TURN IN A WAIVER** – every time you climb.
2. **PAY IN THE OFFICE** .
3. **NO PETS** – This includes your dog. No exceptions.

ROCKTOWN, La Fayette, GA

1. **BE NICE** – Be very courteous and cooperative when dealing with the rangers.
2. **LEASH LAW** – Dogs should be on a leash at all times once you leave the parking lot and head into Rocktown.
3. **SLOW DOWN** – Speed limit on all roads in the Wildlife Management Area is 20 MPH
4. **CAMPING** – Camping is free in designated areas. No camping allowed in Rocktown or on Lost Wall ridge. Maximum stay is 2 weeks.

MUIR VALLEY Red River Gorge KY

Check out <http://www.muirvalley.com/warnings-rules.php>.

- 1. TURN IN A WAIVER** – You must sign a waiver before climbing at Muir Valley. Submit the form online at www.muirvalley.com or get a temporary (3-day) waiver at the kiosk in the parking lot.
- 2. NO CAMPING** – and no campfires.
- 3. NO VICTORY WHIPS.**
- 4. NO TOP OUTS.**
- 5. SLOW DOWN** – Please drive slowly on the approach road.
- 6. PARKING** – Park only on Muir Valley land in areas designated for parking. If the parking lot is full, please climb elsewhere that day.
- 7. NO PETS ALLOWED**

FOSTER FALLS Jasper, TN

- 1. LEAVE NO TRACE** – Check out www.lnt.org

Principles of Leave No Trace:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Dispose of Waste Properly

Leave What You Find

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Respect Wildlife

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- 2. TRAIL** – All climbers must be off the trail before dark.