

ROCK CLIMBING - LIABILITY

Over the years I have had the opportunity to teach the AY Rock Climbing Honor. With such a dangerous sport there are high liability issues. Safety is paramount when conducting these types of activities. Plenty of adult supervision is a must. A minimum of one adult to every five youth should be observed. There should be at least two or three people who are familiar with this activity and know how to properly set up the equipment, tie in students, and perform rescue operations. All adults involved in this activity should be trained in basic safety and technique. There also needs to be at least one certified instructor present and in charge of all climbing and rappelling activities. The insurance carrier for my church will not cover any claims made in regard to injuries sustained while on climbing outings without a certified instructor. I am certain that other insurance carriers would take the same position. There must be documentation for the certified instructor on file with your local church, conference, or governing board. Protect yourself, protect your organization, and let's keep our youth safe!

Randy Raynes