

TECHNICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT TOOL

NAME _____

DATE _____

<i>Technical Skill Competencies to be Assessed</i>	TARGET (1) <i>Targeted performance is evidenced by...</i>	ACCEPTABLE (2) <i>Acceptable performance is evidenced by...</i>	UNACCEPTABLE (3) <i>Unacceptable performance is evidenced by...</i>	COMMENTS
Harness Use Skill	applying all salient points concerning harness use including proper size and fit, proper buckling based on manufacturer instructions, proper adjustment and wearing of clothing, inspection of the harness, and correct placement of the harness on the body. Able to comfortably fit individuals with special issues.	applying basic explanation of proper techniques for fitting and adjusting a harness. Results are adequate but adjustments may have to be made. Struggles to fit individuals with special issues.	inability to fit or adjust a harness according to manufacturer instructions. Unable to fit individuals with special needs.	Score _____
Harness Use Knowledge	understanding the historical evolution of seat harnesses, qualities of different harness styles and how they are correctly worn and checked. Can extrapolate how to properly fit harnesses in unique situations. Demonstrates ability to choose the appropriate harness for the activity.	familiarity with only the specific harness in use. Occasional tips are needed to maximize performance and choose the appropriate harness for the activity.	an inability to recognize problems and correct mistakes regarding the specific harness in use. Unable to choose the appropriate harness for the activity.	Score _____
Harness Use Disposition	sensitivity to physical and emotional issues associated with harness use. Models appropriate harness use.	some sensitivity to physical and emotional issues with harness use and appropriate attention to them.	unsophisticated or no attention to physical and emotional issues associated with harness use. Does not model proper use of climbing harness.	Score _____
General Knot Tying Skill	having every knot attempted in perfect form, each knot is dressed properly, all loops and bights are of the proper size and dimension and every knot is correctly tied off when necessary. The knot is tied with ease, confidence and little effort.	knots that are basically tied correctly but are not of perfect form, e.g. the dressing or tie off knot is not performed properly. The prototype is resembled but is not identical.	looseness within the knot. Rope is not oriented to itself correctly, loops are grossly undersized or oversized, or the knot does not resemble the prototype. There is an obvious struggle, untying and retying, to remember the correct sequence for tying the particular knot.	Score _____
General Knot Tying Knowledge	an ability to tie knots with more than one procedure. An ability to match the appropriate knot to the needed function. An ability to glance at a knot and know immediately if something is wrong.	an ability to recognize knots that are incorrect but inability to correct them without starting completely over. Facilitators are aware of only a few knots for the activity they are practicing	inability to recognize incorrectly tied knots; consistent misapplication of knots and lack of awareness of potential hazards caused by poor or incorrectly tied knots.	Score _____
General Knot Tying Disposition	appreciation for the reasons why knots must be tied correctly, each and every time. Facilitator makes the effort to ensure that knots are correct before being put into use.	a readiness to tie knots consistently but sometimes accepts knots that are not precise or complete.	not caring if knots are properly tied or finished. Facilitator rushes and/or rarely double-checks their work.	Score _____
Belay Device Use Skill	ability to use several different friction devices in the manner designed by the manufacturer. Proper connection to the rope and placement within the overall belay system in use.	correct use of only one friction device. The device is installed properly and used consistently. Awareness of possible mistakes is apparent.	installing the friction device incorrectly or makes mistakes when using the device.	Score _____

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Belay Device Use Knowledge	cognizance of the attributes and drawbacks of different friction devices on the market. High understanding of the best application of a variety of friction devices to various situations.	understanding the advantages and disadvantages of at least one friction device. Some understanding of how to match a variety of friction devices to various situations.	an inability to apply different friction devices to various settings. Does not understand the attributes of various friction devices.	Score _____
Belay Device Use Disposition	awareness and acceptance of the idea that friction devices all have advantages and disadvantages that depend on how they are used.	the ability to advocate the use of various friction devices but actually being committed to one type.	rigidly accepting only one friction device as universal and failsafe.	Score _____
Belaying Hand Motions Skill	correct movement and placement of both hands. The brake end of the rope does not leave the belayer's control.	correct placement of the brake hand but jerky or slow movement. The brake end of the rope remains in the belayer's control.	any loss of control of the brake end of the rope or timing of movements that creates unacceptable slack in the rope.	Score _____
Belaying Hand Motions Knowledge	being able to explain the hand motions without omitting any details. Can clearly articulate the dynamics of belaying.	ability to perform the skill adequately but unable to clearly describe the dynamics behind belaying.	inability to explain the hand motions and being unable to demonstrate the skill of belaying.	Score _____
Belaying Hand Motions Disposition	careful attention to the climber and surrounding people while belaying. Consistently models attentiveness and focus to the entire process.	remaining focused on the climber and not hesitating to manage risks that arise.	being easily distracted and not concentrating on the person climbing. Does not exhibit consistent control over the situation.	Score _____
Belay Command System Skill	implementing a clear simple and consistent communication system between climber and belayer. Additional commands are known and used in proper context.	using the command system with occasional reminders concerning correct sequence of commands or the appropriate word at the appropriate time.	complete absence of commands, failure to initiate climbing commands when necessary or indicating that a belay is in place when it is not.	Score _____
Belay Command System Knowledge	an understanding of commands for numerous high angle settings or while executing a rescue in those settings. Variations from system to system are immediately understood and appreciated.	executing the command system accurately and consistently. Has attained a level of confidence and awareness of belay commands and variations.	not grasping the concept of effective communication between climber and belayer. Does not appreciate variations from system to system.	Score _____

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Belay Command System Disposition	awareness that commands are a distinct and absolutely necessary component of an acceptable belay system. This awareness is modeled consistently.	modeling correct belay commands.	using climbing commands in a manner that elicits feelings that indicates to others that climbing commands are superfluous and unimportant.	Score _____
Safety Check System Skill	systemic application of all established safety checks including proper wearing of the harness, harness buckles, knots, belayers position, proper use of friction device being employed, helmet position and tightness, belay team, adequate anchors and demonstrated ability of the belayer.	safety checks being performed with reminders and occasional tips to maximize efficacy.	even one aspect of the safety check system being omitted or performed inadequately.	Score _____
Safety Check System Knowledge	consciousness of all the characteristics of equipment being used and expertly and immediately understanding when anything is amiss. Demonstrates the ability to correct problems smoothly when they occur.	ability to assess equipment being used. Awareness of safety issues and specific concerns is present. Able to correct problems with minimal guidance.	little or no expertise concerning equipment use and need for assessment every time and little to no understanding of how to correct problems.	Score _____
Safety Check System Disposition	clear communication and demonstration of the importance of the safety check system to every participant and additional staff. Demonstrates consistency implementing the system.	perfunctory safety checks every time but not necessarily impressing the importance of these actions upon participants.	placing little emphasis on the check system or appearing to rush through it. Facilitator appears overly confident and too willing to take unnecessary risks.	Score _____
Static Belay Procedures Skill	comfortable and consistent use of structured procedures in place. Able to execute transfers and associated check and balance system confidently without hesitation.	ability to correctly move through the high ropes course with guidance.	inconsistent application of procedures. Check and balance system used incorrectly or not performed at all, static belays are clipped into inappropriate points or removed completely.	Score _____
Static Belay Procedures Knowledge	facilitator understanding of all important points concerning static belay use including transfer procedure, proper adjustment of static belay components, correct orientation of static belays to participants, and understanding of acceptable clip in points.	following protocol smoothly and with only occasional reminders.	an inability to recognize potentially dangerous situations or deviations from clearly defined and required procedure.	Score _____
Static Belay Procedures Disposition	consistently modeling excellent technique while executing procedures. Applies understanding through behavior that appears to be second nature.	applying appropriate technique with careful thought. Demonstrates ability to recover from potentially dangerous situations. Demonstrates an appropriate level of comfort commensurate with the task at hand.	disregard for the use of proper procedures. Becomes an undesirable example to others.	Score _____

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High Course Set Up and Operation Skill	all belay points properly set, all access elements in position, all rescue and first aid equipment in its proper location, all equipment checked for proper condition and set up for easy distribution, and all elements inspected and approved and the facilitation team is clear on their roles. Performs a pre-inspection of elements. Ability to retrieve gear with ease. Ability to determine proper equipment needed for the activities planned.	the ability to perform all tasks in the targeted performance area with minimal guidance.	incorrect performance of tasks, unrecognized problems with course set-up or physical attributes of course components, unorganized rescue and first aid equipment, and inadequate communication among facilitators. Executes gear retrieval with difficulty.	Score _____
High Course Set Up and Operation Knowledge	comprehension of all facets associated with individual elements, equipment and protocols. Able to problem-solve when faced with questionable issues.	understanding of most facets associated equipment, elements and protocols.	missing problems with disrepair or damage to equipment or elements and improperly implementing stated protocol. Unable to problem-solve when faced with questionable issues.	Score _____
High Course Set Up and Operation Disposition	a clear understanding of specific group and individual participant goals and own abilities to meet those goals. Very comfortable working with other professionals.	a general understanding of how a high ropes course is utilized to stimulate growth in individuals. Limited ability to work with other professionals.	failure to appreciate how a high ropes course is utilized to stimulate growth in individuals. Unable to work with other professionals.	Score _____
Zip Line Procedures Skill	ability to correctly and comfortably belay at zip station with no guidance. Can gather equipment needed for zip set up without prompting. Uses zip commands effectively. can efficiently remove participant from zip in safe manner.	ability to correctly belay at zip station with no guidance. Can gather equipment needed for zip set up with prompting. Uses zip commands somewhat effectively. can remove participant from zip in competent manner.	mistakes made during belaying, command system, or zip line removal. Significant promoting is needed to insure any of these 3 areas is completed properly. Poor management of the zip line site in these areas.	Score _____
Zip Line Procedures Knowledge	following procedures faultlessly every time and in correct sequence in the areas of belaying the climber, zip commands, and removal from zip.	following all procedures, but sometimes with hesitation or small mistakes in the proper sequencing of actions in the 3 areas.	misunderstanding and violating procedures especially protection from a fall during belaying or removal from zip.	Score _____
Zip Line Procedures Disposition	an understanding of the fear and trepidation many zip line participants experience. Empathy and patience are exemplified. Facilitators are constantly careful with their own safety in all areas.	recognition of various types of individual reactions to zip line participation but facilitator response is not always supportive; facilitator is sometimes in a clumsy or awkward position. However, is making an effort to be professional.	lack of patience, and understanding of the emotional condition of the participant. Facilitator is often out of position and put themselves at risk.	Score _____

Overall Comments:

Average Score _____