

A Beginners Guide to The Climbing Club at UIUC

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January 16, 2017

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1 Introduction

Are you 'kinda new' to climbing, but want to learn more? Were you intrigued strange, painted, half-naked loud people on Quad Day? Do you want to become a long-haired-freaky person? If any of these things apply to you, you're reading the right guide!

1.1 Welcome!

From me to you, **welcome to the Climbing Club at UIUC!** Whether youve been climbing for years or have never tried climbing before, the club is a great way to find information, gear, and climbing partners, as well as friendships and experiences that you won't soon forget!

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this guide is *not* a guide on climbing techniques or how to climb. Instead, I wrote this guide in order to centralize all the logistic info that veteran members of the club seemed to know, but have not officially written anywhere. It is the hope of this guide to help facilitate new members to take full advantage of the club's resources. For that reason I have included information to orient you with club information, policies, and procedures, and to help answer frequently asked questions about the club.

1.3 Links

Before getting started, it is pertinent to mention that this guide, as thorough and as timeless as I hope it will be, *might not always be relevant*. Furthermore, as I have mentioned, this is not a guide to climbing itself. To close these gaps, and to connect to I have listed external links to other club pages below:

- Club Website: <http://illinoisclimbingclub.weebly.com/>
- Club Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/24435742766/>
- Club Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/IllinoisClimbingClub>
- Club Constitution: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aoQj-Ece1BkKsGv_uW50pBuY6qaYVn0yIYlruXWQqIw/edit?usp=sharing
- Club Waiver: http://illinoisclimbingclub.weebly.com/uploads/1/9/4/4/19445089/release_form.doc
- Club Gear Care Policy: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ev91ZjWdXOVytcXeE9N3a623NxR4dy/edit?usp=sharing>

1.4 Quick Start Guide

This is a long document. If you are brand new, and want the run-down, without the specifics, take a look at these sections:

1. **Sections 2.1 & 2.2, Membership & Club Benefits**, for information on joining.
2. **Section 2.4 Communications**, for ways to keep in touch with the club and it's members.
3. **Section 3 Climbing**, for information on where we climb, particularly sections on local indoor climbing gyms, and on Jackson Falls, our home crag.
4. **Section 5.1 Callout**, for information on our 'big trip.'

2 Club Information

The official name of the club, as according to the University, is the **Climbing Club at UIUC**.

2.1 Membership

While we allow and encourage non-club members to hang out with us at social events, to take full advantage of the club (see section 2.2, Club Benefits), you must be a member.

Complete Waiver Each year, every member needs to fill out a club waiver. Waivers can be found at http://illinoisclimbingclub.weebly.com/uploads/1/9/4/4/19445089/release_form.doc

Pay Dues Members also need to pay yearly club dues to be a part of the club. At the time of writing this guide, club dues are \$25 for the year, or just \$10 for the spring semester.

Turn in a printed out waiver along with dues **together** anytime to an Executive Board member to officially join the club. Exec Board members can be found at any official club event.

2.2 Club Benefits

As members of the club, we have access to exclusive benefits that far exceed the low yearly cost of membership. They are listed below:

Callout: Access to the famous Callout weekends, once-per-semester outdoor climbing trips to Jackson Falls hosted by veterans of the club for members of any skill level to enjoy the outdoors, teach/learn climbing skills, and hangout! (See section 5.1 for more information on Callout).

Gear Checkout: Access to over \$10,000 worth of climbing equipment - including guidebooks, ropes, and items for sport, ice, trad, big-wall, alpine, and bouldering - available to checkout for free! (See section 2.6 for information on Club Gear).

Gear Discounts: Club-exclusive mega-deals with select outdoor and climbing equipment brands! These generally happen about once a semester; watch for emails/posts about them.

Community: Being officially hooked into a network of adventurous, fun-loving climbers means you'll never need to look far for a climbing partner or mentor. And since we work to keep every club alumnus connected after they leave club, you're sure to find plenty of club-friendly couches to surf on all over the country and world!

Skill Clinics: The club occasionally offers a clinic (some at additional cost and some for free) to teach certain climbing techniques to those interested. For the past few years, there has been a traditional climbing clinic once a year, but these are tentative, based on the availability of an instructor and interest from members.

2.3 Commitment

It is prudent to note that while we shall welcome you immediately and deeply into the social folds of the club, should you join, you are in no way obligated to attend any meeting, party, trip or other event. You can show up as often as you like, when you can, and yet always expect to find friendly faces!

2.4 Communications

The club has a few channels of communication, as listed below:

Email List Our email is our official medium of communication; all important events and announcements are sent out from email. If you would like to be put on the email list, send an email to illinoisclimbingclub@gmail.com saying so. This email is the best way to contact the Executive Board and this is also the email from which we send out communications, so be sure to add it to contacts!

Facebook Group In recent years, the bulk of member discussions in online forums has shifted from the Google Group to Facebook. Here you may ask any question, share any rad climbing video, make any bad joke, plan any sweet trip, or do any various social media activity to your heart's content. Join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/24435742766/>

Google Group A mostly deprecated form of communication used in the early days of the club. Updated infrequently, but might be worth subscribing to at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/IllinoisClimbingClub>

2.5 Government

The government of the club is laid out in the club Constitution, which can be viewed here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aoQj-Ece1BkKsGv_uW50pBuY6qaYVn0yIY1ruXWQqIw/edit?usp=sharing

If you don't want to wade through all that right now, I've summarized it here; club leadership is delegated to 7 or so elected club officers, which make up the Executive Board. However, at any time, any individual member of the club should have a voice in the direction and management of the club, and the Executive Board should respond appropriately. Board members serve for one year, and are elected at the end of the spring semester. Eligibility is restricted to being a member of the club for one full semester prior to being elected; there are no term limits. Below are the Executive Board positions at the time of writing this guide:

President: The President is responsible for administering all club meetings, delegating duties to other executive board members, ensuring the general well-being of the club, and casting any tie-breaking votes.

Vice President: The Vice President assumes the duties of the President in his/her absence. They are responsible for the purchase, storage, upkeep, inventory, and distribution of all club owned gear, including posting times for gear checkout.

Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for managing public club communications, keeping an up-to-date list of members, and keeping minutes of club and executive board meetings.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate record of all club funds, and for collecting club dues from members.

Social Chair: The Social Chair is responsible for organizing social events that grow the club community.

Philanthropy Chair: The Philanthropy Chair is responsible for working in conjunction with social chair to have a variety of events that benefit the community, local crags, and club members. They should be a leader in the promotion of climbing, conservation, and preservation ethics as well as environmental stewardship.

Tech Chair: The Tech Chair is responsible for maintaining the club website and helping and for helping other officers and members with technology.

2.6 Club Gear

The club owns a lode of climbing and other gear, available for use by any club member. Each year, we vote to spend funds on new or replacement gear; due to that and gear retirement from wear, the list of gear changes somewhat frequently. At the time of writing this guide, an updated gear list can be found at <http://illinoisclimbingclub.weebly.com/club-gear.html>

Club Gear Checkout generally happens once a week, as posted by the Vice President. Gear can be reserved up to 60 days in advance, and held for as long as permitted by the Vice President; typically it is returned after one week. All gear is available for checkout by any member, with the exception of Traditional Climbing Gear, which is subject to approval by the Vice President. An additional form on acknowledging gear care must be signed upon first checkout of gear; that form can be found here <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ev91ZjWdX0VytcXeE9N3a623NxR4dywRuRpShKn-un4/edit?usp=sharing>

2.7 Finances

As a member-oriented club, transparency on club finances is important. Thus, I have provided the following summary of the relevant accounts, and given an overview of how club funds are accumulated and spent throughout a year.

Accounts: We have two accounts; one is the RSO (Registered Student Organization) account, which is a requisite of RSO status, and thus, tied to the University. We rarely use this, as it can be a pain to withdraw and use funds due to University bureaucracy. The other, main, account is with the U of I Credit Union. This is the account we use most frequently.

Income: The vast majority of club funds come from member dues - especially at the start of the fall semester and new school year. Thus, it is imperative to recruit new members at this time, and continuously. While this has in the past sustained the funding level to a desirable amount in previous years, if

more funds are necessary, we can get them through the traditional fund-raising methods of sexy car-washes, bake-sales, and the like. Another potential source of income available to the club is that from University funding, namely, from SORF. SORF funding can be used to help pay for equipment, speakers, movie screenings, and other club expenses (although it never pays for the full amount).

Expenses: The most significant and apparent use of club funds is for purchasing club gear. Usually, after our autumn Callout, we need to replace several ropes and other worn equipment. We also usually have a large portion of funds available to spend on new gear, as voted on by the club. Other expenses include paying for speakers, movie screenings, rental of space for skill clinics, and providing beverages for social events.

3 Climbing

Climbing in the club works on an informal basis; we do not organize climbing events or trips for members, with the exception of the large, per-semester, club-sponsored trip named Callout (see section 5.1 for more info). Instead, members use personal communications, Facebook, and the club events to meet people and coordinate times to climb, outdoors, indoors, or otherwise.

If you're new to climbing, the best way to get climbing fast is to simply post about in our Facebook group - pick a time or day you are free to climb, and make a post inviting people to join you. Even if you have no skills, no equipment, and no transportation to get climbing, make a public post mentioning things and your desire to go climbing, and you may be picked up by another member looking for someone to fill a carseat on the way to Jackson Falls or Urbana Boulders. Barring a public announcement noting your desire to climb at a specific time, the next best way to find an adventure is to hang around at club events, talking to members about their climbing plans, and asking to join or climb.

For ideas on where to climb, read on!

3.1 Indoors

The popularity of indoor rock climbing for a workout and recreation has skyrocketed, especially in the midwest. Unfortunately, this means that current gyms are crowded. Fortunately, this also means that more gyms are opening to accommodate the increased demand. When we can't get out to hangout with mother nature, members of the UIUC Climbing Club frequent the following gyms.

Urbana-Champaign

the ARC On campus, the climbing wall at the Activities and Recreation Center is where many U of I affiliates are first exposed to climbing. On any day of the week or weekend, you'll find club members there; including half of the staff. Great place to start climbing - especially since Campus Rec members can go for free, and there are staff who with belay and talk to you.

Other Notes:

- Climbing: 40ft top rope routes on a few adjacent 'walls', and home-made bouldering problems. Lead Climbing if you take the ARC Lead Clinic, but not many people do it.
- Hours: Weekends 3-7pm; Weekdays 3-9pm
- Crowds: Less crowded when it first opens, then fills up. It's a small space, made smaller by the bundles of college kids crossing it off their bucket lists or getting a quick pic.

Urbana Boulders Opened in October 2015, UB is CU's newest place to climb. It's a bit of a hike off campus (compared to the ARC; it's 5 minutes by car),

situated a half mile north of downtown Urbana. Many club members climb here on the weekends or in the evenings, and almost all of the staff are affiliated with or know about the club. UB also hosts a growing community of non-club members in a way the ARC does not, making it a fun place to meet people outside of a University-oriented setting.

The Rundown:

- Climbing: 20ft bouldering walls wrapping around created features in an old auto-shop. Creative route-setting of one new wall of routes every week keeps things fresh.
- Hours: 10am-10pm every day.
- Crowds: Evenings and Weekends are the most full (but still not too bad), with the latter peppered with birthday parties featuring kids scampering up and down making you feel old and fat. Daytime weekdays are the most empty.

Bloomington

Upper Limits 45 minutes away from campus, Bloomington houses this unique gym, which itself resides in an old granary. Several 60ft concrete grain silos have been retrofitted to offer a unique climbing experience, all adjacent to a larger, more traditional 'climbing gym' area. Club members head here for day trips.

The Cheese:

- Climbing: 70ft concrete silos offer long, sustained vertical climbs in a unique environment, while the main gym area provides a range of climbing including interesting overhanging routes and a small bouldering area. Every route in the silos can be led or topoped, while many of the wandering overhangs can *only* be led.
- If you're looking for some gear, Upper Limits sports a pro-shop selling shoes, ropes, harnesses, and more.

Chicagoland

Vertical Endeavors With huge new facility that marks climbing's ascent into popularity, VE sports oodles of routes for top rope, lead, and bouldering on a myriad of features. 30-something auto-belays make it easy for cityslickers to try their hands at climbing.

Brooklyn Boulders Located only 15 minutes from Chicago Union Station, Brooklyn Boulders Chicago offers not just bouldering, but also a range of roped climbs. The boulder problems are short but intense on a 15ft wall. Their main gym includes a 30ft wall armed with auto-belays. For those looking to lead or test their stamina, the 70ft high walls offer problems ranging from 5.7 to 5.13. Once inside the gym, they also provide amenities like workout equipment, yoga lessons, and workstations for free. All of this jacks up the price, however.

Indianapolis

Hoosier Heights Hoosier Heights has bouldering, top roping, and lead climbing. HH's unique features includes 'the snake pit', a very steep, high boulder problem on which you can top out - but if you don't, you get to fall into a huge foam pit.

St. Louis

SoILL Located in a converted power station, SoILL sets quality routes consisting of bouldering, lead, and top rope. SoILL is also a climbing company selling climbing holds, shoes and more.

Upper Limits There are two Upper Limits locations in St. Louis as well, but they don't feature grain silos like the one in Bloomington.

3.2 Outdoors

Climbing indoors is fun, but it just doesn't cut the butter compared to climbing outside. Unfortunately, in flatland Illinois there's naught a chance of interesting, climbable terrain, right?

WRONG! In fact, some of the Heartland's best climbing can be found just a few hours from campus at places like the Holy Boulders or Jackson Falls; those willing to trek further will find months worth of prime climbing in the Red River Gorge or Horseshoe Canyon Ranch. If you've read this far into this guide, making a pilgrimage to some genuine, outdoor rocks is a must; even if you have to make a grueling day trip, make it happen. You won't be disappointed.

'Local' Crags

Jackson Falls As the 'home crag' of the Climbing Club, Jackson Falls holds a special place in the hearts of many of us. On any particular weekend, if the weather is nice, you'll find club members making the pilgrimage down to Southern Illinois to climb the 200+ quality sandstone routes.

The Beta:

- Climbing: hundreds of 25m routes on excellent sandstone makes for plenty of climbing for multiple trips. Sport dominates the bulgy face climbs here, but there are some excellent trad lines to be had.
- Location: 3.5 hours south along Rt. 57, in the Shawnee National Forest. Directions from Urbana to Jackson Falls can be found at http://illinoisclimbingclub.weebly.com/uploads/1/9/4/4/19445089/directions_to_jackson_falls.doc
- Camping: FREE at designated sites. As if you needed more of incentive to go to Jackson.
- Guidebooks: a 'new' guidebook (by Yusuf Daneshyar) features tons of pretty, colored pictures that make it easy to find the routes you're looking for, but it is shockingly absent of trad lines. For that, use the 'old' guidebook (by Eric Ulnar). The club has a few copies of both available for checkout. The Mountain Project pages for Jackson are there, but incomplete; do your part to make them better!

- Mountain Project: <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/jackson-falls/106017458>

The Holy Boulders Recently acquired by the Access Fund and opened to the public, the Holy Boulders is located in southern Illinois and is home to some legendary bouldering on world-class sandstone boulders. While its definitely not the only bouldering area in southern Illinois, the Holies is the largest, with over 200 established problems, making it a must for all local crash pad warriors.

The Butter:

- Climbing: Excellent bouldering on sandstone. Bring a couple crash-pads and chill vibes.
- Location: 30 minutes southwest of Carbondale means a car with a 'tude can get here from Urbana in 3.5 hours.
- Guidebooks: As of summer 2016, there are no guidebooks to the area. The Mountain Project lists many classics, but not everything is in there.
- More info can be found at the Mountain Project at <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/the-holy-boulders/108116766>

Devil's Lake State park in Wisconsin that contains some of the best rock climbing in the Midwest. Located in a picturesque setting, these quartzite rock cliffs are of upwards of a hundred feet in height. There is no shortage of climbable rock in the park.

The Bread:

- Climbing: No bolted routes in the park means that Traditional and Top-Rope climbing on slippery rock rule here.
- Location: North of Madison, WI, puts the travel time at 4.5 hours from Urbana.
- Guidebooks: The club owns a guidebook to the area, and the Mountain Project seems pretty good.
- Mountain Project: <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/devils-lake/105729927>

Long-Weekend Destinations

The Red River Gorge The Red is a world-renowned climbing area with thousands of sport and trad routes. There is plenty for everyone, with tons of beginner-level routes as well as the long, burly overhanging routes the Red has become famous for. Located in Kentucky, the Red is a bit farther than the other areas club members often visit, but the drive is well worth it for the sheer amount of amazing climbing available.

The Jazz:

- Climbing: Oodles of sport, trad, and even bouldering routes at the tips of your fingers.

- **Camping:** Miguel's Pizza! Ignoring the creepy logo, Miguel's offers cheap camping, and is a general epicenter for climbers in the area. Hangout and grab a slice! NOTE: Miguel's is not open in the winter months, as I sadly found out in February of 2016.
- **Location:** 5.3 hours from Urbana deep into Kentucky. Individual crags are spread out over the miles of the gorge, so expect a morning and evening drive.
- **Guidebooks:** The club owns a guidebook or two, and the Mountain Project seems decent.
- **Mountain project:** <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/red-river-gorge/105841134>

Horseshoe Canyon Ranch Surreal sandstone climbing in a spectacular setting with all the amenities of a four-star dude ranch make this one of the most unique and enjoyable crags you will ever visit.

The Gist:

- **Climbing:** HCR offers some of the finest sandstone in Arkansas with nearly 420 routes ranging from 5.5 to 5.14. The majority of the routes are fully bolted sport climbs, but there are also many fine trad routes and a plethora of good boulder problems. The cracks at the Ranch are some of the best in Arkansas and will challenge even the saltiest of crack masters.
- **Camping:** Camping on the dude ranch makes for a unique experience!
- **Location:** Nestled in Northern Arkansas puts the Urbana drive at just under 8 hours.
- **Guidebooks:** The club owns a guidebook, Mountain Project seems good.
- **Mountain Project:** <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/horseshoe-canyon-ranch/105903004>

Other Destinations

There are myriad unique and exquisite places to climb in North America, and only a few of them are listed here. While the following list of destinations may inspire you, it is easy to imagine that it also intimidates you. As a small form of encouragement, let me mention that *almost all of these destinations has been visited and climbed by some member of our club throughout the years.*

Colorado Nestled among the continental divide, sometimes it seems like Colorado won the terrain jackpot. Famous destinations for climbing of all kinds include Rifle, El Dorado, the Flatirons, Rocky Mountain National Park, Shelf Road, Clear Creek Canyon, the terrifying Black Canyon of Gunnison San Luis Valley and more.

Appalachia Heart of the gorgeous green Appalachian mountains, Appalachia stretches from lower New York to the northern half of Alabama. In this

huge area, all kinds of climbing abound. Big names include Seneca Rocks and the giant New River Gorge in West Virginia (if you find yourself in the area of the New, deep water soloing at Summersville Lake is not to be missed), the Gunks of New York, beautiful Tennessee-Wall near Chattanooga, and the Asheville, North Carolina destinations of Looking Glass, Laurel Knob, Linville Gorge, and more.

Desert Climbing A weird and warm heart of climbing lies at the desert towers and canyons found in North America. Hyper classic locations include Las Vegas-adjacent Red Rock Canyon in Nevada, Joshua Tree and Bishop for California bums, Mt. Lemmon, Cochise Stronghold and the Grand Canyon in Arizona and lastly, the desert towers of Moab and Arches, the legendary splitter cracks of Indian Creek, and the big wall adventures of Zion, all residing in scenic Utah.

New England The tree-clad mountains and valleys of the northeast make for a scenic destination and a great climbing trip. A few climbing sites include Rumney and other White Mountains areas in New Hampshire, the Adirondacks of New York, and Katahdin and Acadia National Park of beautiful Maine.

Wyoming & South Dakota Wyoming holds a place among the great inheritors of climbable rock; In the West, the Yellowstone-adjacent Grand Tetons provide a perfect alpine climbing experience, while the curious Devil's Tower, and wide-crack heaven of Vedauwoo sit to the East and Ten Sleep rocks the center. In the Black Hills on the West side of South Dakota a surprising quantity and quality of climbs can be found in Custer State Park and around Mt. Rushmore.

Northwest Squamish of Canadian Rockies in British Columbia holds the claim to fame in this area, but Washington, Oregon, and Idaho all keep pace with hundreds of lesser destinations all over the place.

Yosemite & Other California It would be remiss to not mention Yosemite: perhaps the capital of North American climbing, I need not say more about it; just ask any club member for more info. The vast tracts of land that make up California also host a number of climbing destinations, including some by Lake Tahoe, a superb trip location in itself.

International The World isn't limited to North America! Squamish of British Columbia was already mentioned above, but club members have also made pilgrimages to towering El Potrero Chico, Mexico, world-famous bouldering site Fontainebleau, France, island sport-climbing paradise Kalymnos, Greece, and even Southeast Asian crags in Laos and Vietnam.

4 Campus Events

The best way to get involved with club members is first to just come to events. Talk to us, ask us about what fun things we've climbed, what we want to climb, and what we *don't* want to climb. Ask us about what skills you should learn, and who you can learn them from. Ask if you can come on our next climbing adventure. Above all, just come hangout with us! We like to talk and meet new people!

4.1 Meetings

As of the time of this writing, the club usually hosts general club meetings on every other Wednesday at 7pm in a Lincoln Hall classroom; keep an eye out for emails or Facebook posts announcing the details of meetings.

Meeting content, of course, depends on the week; the first meeting of the year is reserved for an Intro to Climbing Club, we have Callout info meetings ahead of Callout, and once a year we gather to hammer out the details of what new gear to order. Other meetings are more flexible; sometimes we teach about Wilderness First Aid, other times we recount our valor, successes, and failures in recent trip reports. Everyone knows that meetings can suck, so it is up to the Club to decide what content is useful and fun enough to carve out time for. Here is also a good place to remind that **you are never required to come to a meeting to be part of the club.**

No matter what the content of the meeting is, rest assured that if you persevere, you will be well rewarded; after a meeting we make our traditional pilgrimage to Murphy's Pub on Green Street.

4.2 Social Events

Did I mention we like to hangout? On any given month, you can pretty much guarantee that club members are gathering under open invitation to chill, relax, hangout, or party. Although I separated the following events as pure social events, in reality, all events are social events. These are usually posted about in the Facebook group and emailed about ahead of time, but sometimes there are flash social events for whoever is available. Here are some of the socials we like to do:

Bouldering Nights Held at the infamous Climbing House, which is padded with a home-built bouldering wall in the living room, these social nights are composed of bouldering, battle boulders, good vibes, and hanging out.

Slacklining During the sunny days (and nights!) of late spring and early fall, some member will rouse the troops for the most relaxing balancing activity short of yoga: slacklining. Don't be afraid to step on the line; *everyone* is terrible when the first begin.

Potlucks Scheduled gatherings for good food and good cheer, bring your favorite dish!

Parties Get ready for the greatest dance party thrown in all of Urbana-Champaign, because the climbing club likes to bust some moves. All forms of weird costumes encouraged!

Barcrawls Once a semester, come to the crawl for drinks, dancing, and (what else) a good time.

4.3 Special Events

Once in a while, the club will host a special event, the details of which announced ahead of time. Following are some of the special events we've hosted in the past:

Reel Rock Held in the autumn just after release, we gathered in an auditorium to screen the famous, epic, annual climbing films. We have also paired this screening. In years past we've donated the proceeds to the Illinois Climbing Association.

Speakers We love hearing tales of famous climbers and their exploits. So much, in fact, that in years past we have invited said famous climbers to campus to speak to us and answer questions. Ask them if they've ever played Danger Can!

5 Off-Campus Events

A common motif amongst club members is that if we stay on-campus for too long we go stir-crazy; the mountains are calling, and we must go. It is fortunate, then, that the mountains are close enough, and that the club provides gear and community to draw parters, rides and advice from.

Due to impracticality, our 'official' outdoor climbing events are limited in frequency (but still incredible; see section 5.1 Callout below). Instead, the club provides a great structure for club members to organize 'unofficial' ventures to the crags; therefore **the best way to jump-start your climbing and club experience has been and always shall be *going on a trip with an experienced member***. These trips most often run on weekends to Jackson Falls.

5.1 Callout

Callout is the club's once-per-semester **big trip** - a camping/climbing pilgrimage to our home crag of Jackson Falls, where all sorts of members, from grizzled stone veterans to never-touched-a-rock newbies, get together to have a kickass weekend.

If you have never, ever, been climbing before, or camping before - hell, if you grew up as bubble boy and have never stepped foot outside - ***this is the trip for you***.

Traditionally, the experienced members set up the ropes for the newbies, and there is a tremendous opportunity for newer climbers to learn new skills from the veterans of the club. Alternatively, if you just want to come and hang out with us, that's fine too.

Benefits include:

- Climb! On real sandstone!
- Camp! In beautiful Shawnee National Forest!
- Explore the humbling and gorgeous sandstone blocks of the Jackson Falls Canyon!
- Make lots of quick friends!
- Escape the stress of school, work and the drudgery of Corn City, Illinois
- Learn climbing skills (if you want to)!
- NO experience required!

The schedule is roughly as follows: arrive and camp Friday night in a large communal campground; climb all day Saturday; communal cooking, campfire, and good times on Saturday night; climb most of Sunday; and finally drive to local Marion for Mexican food before hitting the road home. The transportation method is 'carpool', however, so your schedule is at the whim of your fellow vehicle denizens.

Everything you need to know about Callout, including how to sign up for the current semester's trip, is usually presented at one of our club meetings, but if you're worried you might miss this wonderful experience, just contact the executive board at illinoisclimbingclub@gmail.com for up-to-date information.

5.2 Self-Organized Trips

Callout is far from the only time we head out to make love to the rock; far from it! In fact, if the weekend weather is above 40 degrees and sunny, you can pretty much bet your life savings on someone in our club headed out to take a vertical journey.

The nature of *these* kinds of trips is less official. At the time of this writing, members use club events, meetings and the Facebook page to meet climbing partners, learn (of) skills and destinations, and then independently organize weekend or other climbing trips.

As a newbie, it might seem like a difficult system to break into, but I must say this: as scary as it sounds, **if you want to climb, or to learn how to climb, ASK AN EXPERIENCED MEMBER TO BRING YOU**. That remains, in the author's opinion, the best way to 'get into' climbing and learn about things you never knew.

5.3 Reunions

On occasion, current and past club members come together for a convivial club reunion in some pristine climbing place. At the time of this writing, the most recent was the 15-year reunion at Rocky Mountain National Park. If you've been in the club for years, and have yet to hear of any reunion, it might be time to get one going - start to spread the word!

6 Appendix

6.1 The Best Advice

- "'You can always blame your shoes'" - Will Rick
- "'Just stand up!'" - Nick Tripp
- "'Respect the route'" - Peggy Flavin (by James Fran)
- "'Don't fall'" - Andrew Shiang
- "'The best climber is the one that's having the most fun'" - Paul Rachwalski
- "'Make love to the rock'" - Fiona Weingartner (by Gabe Hintzche)
- "'Just keep your arms straightened and twist your torso'" - Noah Starr
- "'Don't ever grab a bolt hanger you stupid piece of shit'" - Joey Moody
- "'How to closed-hand crimp. It made me realize that very tiny changes can make a huge difference and that climbs that I thought I would never be good enough to do were much more attainable than they seemed.'" - Chris Kunz
- "'Anytime you transfer your life between two pieces, weight the new piece before you do'" - Alex James
- "'Climb like you're on top rope'" - Alex James (by Tom Cecil)

- "'Double check your knots"' - Casey Fee
- "'Just have fun!'" - Casey Fee
- "'Trust yourself. People are WAY better climbers than they think they are.'" - Kyle Johnston
- "'Learn to control your breathing"' - Halie Kastl

7 Afterword

This document was written by 2015-2016 Climbing Club Secretary and Executive Board member Nick Tripp. I wrote this with the intention of the guide being used for a long time. If any information in this document changes or ceases to be relevant and editing the document becomes necessary, please be aware of the following: this document was written in LaTeX. If you don't know what that means, find someone who does (most Computer Science or other technical majors). Please email me at ntripp2@illinois.edu for the .tex file.