

TREE CLIMBING PLANET

ascend. explore. grow.

GOAL

Tree Climbing Planet's (TCP) goal is to establish relationships with landowners in the Nashville area to serve the increasing public interest in technical and recreational tree climbing. Our purpose is to inspire people to a closer connection with trees, for the benefit of both, through instructional courses and adventures. When people spend time in the trees, they develop a deeper awareness of their natural surroundings, resulting in an enhanced appreciation and active interest in the welfare of our environment.

TCP BACKGROUND

TCP is a technical tree climbing school with headquarters in Oregon City, Ore., just outside of Portland. The company's founder, Tim Kovar, has been active within the tree climbing community for close to 20 years. A Master Instructor with Atlanta, Ga.-based Tree Climbers International, the leading authority on recreational tree climbing schools, Tim helped design, create and fine tune the tree climbing courses that are now being taught worldwide.

In 2005, Tim moved to Oregon and founded Tree Climbing Northwest, the first tree climbing school west of the Rocky Mountains, in partnership with New Tribe, a notable manufacturer of recreational tree climbing equipment. As popularity in international tree climbing classes increased, Tim branched off from New Tribe and launched TCP in 2010.

Over the years, Tim has earned respect and friendship through his partnerships with a wide variety of organizations including universities, arboretums, preservation organizations, and local municipalities. He's had the privilege of working with canopy researchers, eco-tourism operators, outdoor educators, tree house builders, challenge course leaders, film crews, artists, authors, photographers, physical therapists, and more.

APPROACH – RESPECT FOR TREES

In all of our activities, we have the utmost respect for the trees and the land – protecting their welfare – as much as our own safety. People often ask if we use spikes to climb trees. No. Never. Spikes, which are used by some loggers and pole climbers, cause puncture wounds that make the trees vulnerable to disease and infestation. Instead, we use ropes and saddles to access the trees. Every dynamic climbing system has branch protection, which prevents abrasion wear to the branch and rope, and ensures no damage to the tree's cambium layer. If heavy foot traffic is anticipated, a deep layer of mulch is added around the base of the tree to help prevent soil compaction.



PUBLIC CLIMBS

At public climbs, we set up several climbing stations in a tame, inspected and cleaned tree prior to the public's arrival. The minimum age is six years old. No climbing experience is necessary and all certified equipment is provided. The tree is cordoned off to protect



bystanders and everyone inside the climbing area must wear a safety helmet.

Professionally trained tree climbing facilitators coach participants on how to ascend and descend safely. Sanctioned facilitated tree climbs, tracked by Tree Climbers International since 1983, have enjoyed a flawless safety record. Participation fees are typically \$20 for an afternoon. On special occasions, participants climb for free.

FACILITATED ADVENTURES

We conduct a variety of tree climbing adventures that let participants savor the heady joy of being high in a tree. Participants need no training or prior experience to safely enjoy these activities and minimal strength is required. Participants may choose a day climb or an overnight experience sleeping in the top of a tree. We are happy to work with individuals to create an original tree climbing experience. Facilitated adventures clientele include birthday parties, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, outdoor groups, corporate team building, family reunions, private parties and public festivals.

TREE CLIMBING COURSES

We offer a wide range of courses, from one day introductions to week long expeditions, though the majority of classes are designed for two days and seven days. Students from around the world seek out our courses and it is not uncommon to have more international students than local students in a class. Participants register through TCP. We tell them what to expect, what to bring, and where to go to meet their instructor at an appointed time. The instructor provides all professional equipment. If the class is in a public setting, the tree will be cordoned off for public safety.

Participants are responsible for their own lodging and meals for the duration of the course. Class schedules are typically from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Occasionally, we will even sleep in the trees. The day prior, the instructor typically inspects the tree and removes any hazards from the climbing site. Detailed course descriptions may be found on our website (www.treeclimbingplanet.com) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/treeclimbingplanet).



SCHEDULE

TCP is excited to bring tree climbing to Middle Tennessee. The area's abundance of woodland and urban forests make it an ideal location for tree climbing enthusiasts.



Our primary school is located on 150 acres of wooded land, in the rolling hills of Oregon City, Ore. We operate the majority of our classes in Oregon from May through October. The Middle Tennessee location will operate from October through May with occasional classes during the summer months. Class dates are usually on weekends and occasionally during the week. Our group climbs are booked individually for each client and are scheduled around the classes. Group climbs are typically

three hours long. Class sizes maintain an instructor to student ratio of 1:4. Group climbs for up to 15 people, enjoy their own private tree climbing event.

LIABILITY

Safety is our highest value and routine safety checks are part of our climbing style. In fact, we are proud to tout a perfect safety record. We train to be prepared for the risk inherent in any vertical activity and our facilitators and instructors regularly practice rescue scenarios, know first aid, and are CPR certified. The company carries one million dollar liability insurance for all climbs. Our provider is Veracity Insurance Solutions, certificate number – CL123513734.

Before beginning activities at a new site, we provide our host with a certificate of insurance that lists them as an additional named insured. All participants are required to sign a Release & Assumption of Risk Agreement before beginning their tree climbing experience with us.



WHAT WE OFFER

Per Diem contribution

TCP charges participants for our services. Our typical arrangement is to pay a per diem use fee to our host, which is outlined in a contractual agreement.

Personal benefit to participants

A tree climbing experience can be life changing. It promotes high self-esteem through personal accomplishment, while at the same time inspiring humility in the powerful presence of nature.

Personal benefit to your trees

Our trained instructors are familiar with tree biology and tree care. With your permission, they will clean the tree of any hazards and perform minimal pruning. Trees will receive regular health inspections. Designated training trees will receive a healthy layer of woodchips at its base to help prevent soil compaction.



Perquisites

By special arrangement at reduced or no charge, we can provide selected services to our host. For example, this may include events such as a tree climbing party or a discount on a tree climbing class.

WHAT WE ASK

An ideal site offers access to three or four mature trees on your land, though even one tree may meet TCP's needs. Our landowner contract outlines expectations and use agreements for conducting seasonal events and courses according to a mutually convenient schedule. We look for trees with welcoming architecture, mature size, easy access and good health in a setting away from power lines, roads, and walkways. We will need to tour your property to help identify candidate trees.

LANDOWNER REFERENCES

Geraldine H. Pearson
(503) 655-6466

I own, and live on, the farm on which Tim Kovar holds tree climbing clinics. Tim, and all those connected with him, have been a true joy. Our association has been totally trouble free and provides great adventures for those who come for instruction and a new experience. We have hosted hundreds of climbers of all ages and from an array of foreign countries. Many of them have camped in the property and have taken great care to respect both the land and my ownership.

Tim has, over the years I have known him, been totally trustworthy, honest, truthful, and responsible. He has a great work ethic, and is always pleasant and cooperative. He, and all those with whom he shares tree climbing, have taken beautiful care of my land and the trees. I have no reservations in recommending him.

Jodie Cowan Moskios
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I am co-owner of a Tree House Bed and Breakfast located in Southern Oregon. I was interested in setting up tree boats for our guests and getting some training on climbing trees for various other reasons directly associated with the nature of our business. Upon meeting with Tim Kovar, we discussed the possibilities and Tim suggested the use of our property for tree climbing classes and events. I was thrilled, it's a perfect compliment to our business and gives me the opportunity to obtain the training I desired. While working with Tim I found his respect for nature above board. The care and respect for our trees and property surmounts any expectations we might have had. The property is left in better condition than before he came. Tim is respectful of other goings on around the property as well.

I have gained a wealth of information truly valuable to someone whose largest investment and income is reliant on trees. The opportunities for our business have expanded with the varied contacts we have gained through the tree climbing community and we have booked several stays at our facility as a result of Tree Week class.

In closing I would encourage anyone with a love of trees to host tree climbing events on their property. The information and interaction with the instructors and climbers alike is enlightening and enjoyable. Best of all, becoming more involved with your trees the attention and appreciation they receive from you and others is spreading gratitude to all trees.