Course Description:
The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) Climbing Wall Instructors Program is the national standard to train and evaluate indoor climbing wall instructors. The Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program is designed to evaluate the concept of a climbing-wall-specific technical skills certification. The course is two and one half days in length and a minimum of 20 hours of instruction, skills demonstration, and evaluation. The course aims to increase the level of professionalism in indoor climbing and to improve the level of climbing wall instruction, to develop a more consistent standard of care for climbing instructors in the US, to evaluate the skills of climbing instructors in the US, and to provide guidance for further professional development. This course will address the basic technical skills necessary to manage an instructional program at a climbing facility. This is not a climbing course, but rather focuses heavily on skill evaluation and developing and presenting lesson plans appropriate for climbing wall terrain. Candidates have the opportunity to choose from the ‘Top Rope’ and ‘Lead Climbing’ certification levels (see below). Candidates shall possess sufficient knowledge, demonstrate skills, and/or demonstrate teaching ability in each competency area (if appropriate to the topic) in order to successfully complete the course.

Course Length:
2.5 Days; 20 Hours

Who Should Take This Course:
Climbing wall staff, climbing gym staff, university outdoor education programs

Prerequisites:
- Pre-requisites for Certification at the AMGA CWI ‘Top Rope’ Level:
  o Must be 18 years old or older
  o At least one year documented personal climbing experience (a minimum of 20 outings climbing indoors and/or outdoors).
  o Climbing ability: top rope 5.7 on artificial structures. Demonstrating calm, confidence, good position, balance, solid base of support, no falls and general body awareness.
  o Ability to effectively belay with tube/plate device and an assisted braking device (i.e. Petzl Grigri)
  o An instructional background: ability to effectively teach basic skills

- Pre-requisites for Certification at the AMGA CWI ‘Lead Climbing’ Level:
  o All above pre-requisites
  o Climbing ability: top rope 5.9 and lead 5.8 on artificial structures. Demonstrating calm, confidence, good position, balance, solid base of support, no falls, and general body awareness.
  o Ability to effectively belay in a top rope and lead belay setting with tube/plate device and an assisted braking device (i.e. Petzl Grigri)
  o An instructional background: ability to effectively teach skills learned in an indoor setting
Certifications Received:
American Mountain Guides Association, Climbing Wall Instructor (Top Rope or Lead).
- Certification and AMGA Membership lasts for three years. After three years, current CWI's can re-take a one-day assessment to retain the CWI certification.

How To Register:
Step 1: Join the AMGA (or log-in to your existing account)
- Membership must be at the Professional Membership level.
Step 2: Apply to Your Course or Assessment
- Sign in to your my AMGA account.
- Click the “Apply for a Program” tab.
- Select the discipline and course type you are applying to.
- Select the specific program you are applying to and click “apply.”
- Confirm your prerequisites.
- Please contact the Program Provider directly if you have questions regarding the course selected. The program provider will contact you with further instruction.

Please note that joining the AMGA and applying for a course does not automatically enroll you for a course. You must also meet the prerequisites for the program and be approved to enroll by the program provider. Your acceptance into the program is at the sole discretion of the program provider.

Have Additional Questions:
For more information contact Andrew Borak, the Assistant Director of Outdoor Programs at:
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- 540-831-6012