Foothills Mountaineers

Sport Climb Equivalency

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| **Candidate name** |  |
| **Evaluator name** |  |
| **Date** |  |

The goal of this evaluation is to enable candidates with significant outdoor sport climbing experience to obtain the [Leading Sport Routes](https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/badges/skill-badges/leading-sport-routes) skill badge. Equivalency is offered on a best-effort basis from the Foothills Climbing committee and is targeted at candidates who will become active participants in the Foothills Climbing community. The candidate will need to demonstrate proficiency in the same skills that are taught in the Sport Climbing course; equivalency candidates and students are held to the same standard. Successful candidates will engender confidence that they can safely lead sport climbing routes and set up top rope anchors for other party members with limited supervision from a Mountaineers sport climb leader.

# Process

1. Candidate reaches out to Sport Climbing course lead to discuss experience.
2. Course lead finds suitable opportunity for skills evaluation.
3. Evaluator (can be any Mountaineers Sport Climb, Rock Climb, or Climb leader) observes candidate on skills, outside, on rock sport routes.
4. Evaluator completes this form and sends it to the course lead.
5. Evaluator and course lead confer.
6. Course lead grants badge if appropriate and informs Foothills Climbing committee.

# Prerequisites

Candidates should reach out to the Foothills Sport Climbing course lead. The lead will discuss relevant experience with the candidate and find a suitable opportunity for skills evaluation. At a minimum, candidates should have:

* Active Mountaineers member with signed waiver on file.
* Top rope belay and lead belay signoff from The Mountaineers or a climbing gym.
* 6 months of sport lead climbing experience.
* Set up and cleaned several SERENE anchors in a variety of sport climbing settings.

# Skills evaluation

Equivalency candidates must demonstrate confidence and proficiency in the following areas.

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| **Skill** | **Kudos** | **Opportunities for Improvement** |
| **Route assessment** Picks a route to climb using guide book or Mountain Project. Explains relevant hazards on the route. Briefs belayer on where to stand, when to keep tight or loose belay (for ledges), etc.  Evaluates need for stick clip. |  |  |
| **Climbing** Fluid movement on a sport climbing route rated 5.6 or higher. Avoids placing foot behind rope.  Demonstrates systematic partner safety check before climbing.  Demonstrates Mountaineers climbing commands (on belay, climbing, take, slack, lower). |  |  |
| **Clipping** Does not z-clip or back clip when leading. Quickdraws in correct orientation (gate away from direction of travel, correct carabiner on bolt).  Appropriate clipping locations (mostly when bolt in torso region, solid clipping stances).  On the ground, demonstrates what z-clip and back clip is. |  |  |
| **Anchor building** Demonstrates appropriate SERENE anchor for at least one route. On the ground demonstrates quickdraw, fixed & focused, and quad anchors. |  |  |
| **Cleaning** Cleans an anchor using a thread-and-lower technique. Explains when this technique cannot be used.  \*Must maintain attachment to two separate bolts at all times\* |  |  |
| **Bailing** Describes how to safely bail from a sport climbing route. Never depends on one bolt (except for bailing between the first and second bolts). |  |  |