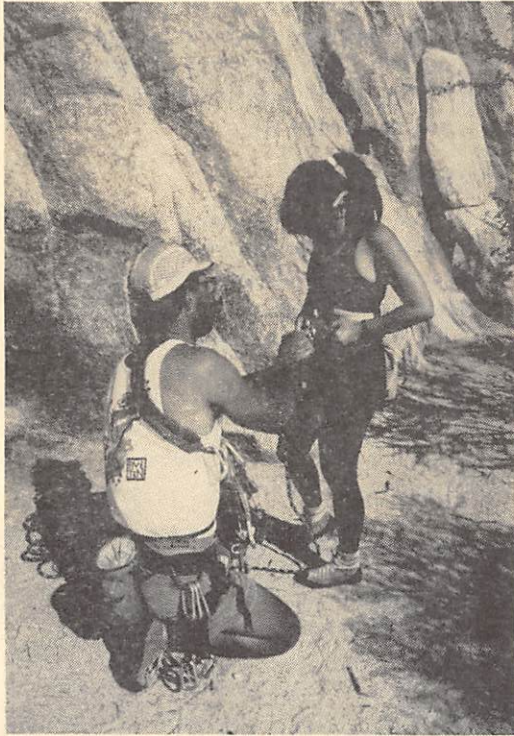


RESPONSIBLE CLIMBING

Commit to "leave no trace" during your stay at Joshua Tree. Pick up trash around campgrounds and cliffs. Your actions will inspire other park visitors.

Whether on the cliffs or in a parking lot such as Hidden Valley, maintain a low profile. Others have the same right to undisturbed enjoyment of the park as you do.



Use existing trails whenever possible and be careful of fragile desert vegetation. The base of Echo Rock is an example of serious plant damage.

Before placing bolts, think carefully about the route's validity. Joshua Tree has a lot of top rope routes; many are worth climbing, but not worth bolting. If in doubt, show your proposed route to others and get their opinion before drilling. Bolts may, some would say deform, the natural features of rock faces.

Retreat/rappel slings and bolt hangers are intrusions on the natural landscape and should not be visible. Chains and natural colored webbing help camouflage rappel stations.

ALERT As of February 1, 1993, no new bolts, or replacement of existing bolts, will be permitted within congressionally designated wilderness areas of Joshua Tree National Park. This restriction will remain in effect until scheduled studies are completed and the issue is re-examined in the proposed wilderness management plan.

CLIMBING SAFETY

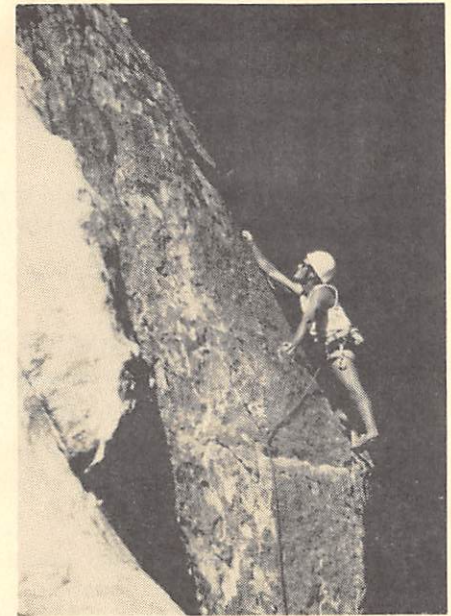
- Wear a helmet.
- Climb with a partner.
- Know your equipment and how it works.
- Don't climb above your ability and training.
- Always take adequate water with you.
- **WARNING** The National Park Service does not maintain routes or anchors. All fixed protection found in place should be considered potentially unsafe. Use of existing bolts is not recommended.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Park Dispatch (909) 383-5651
(24 Hours — call collect)
or call 911

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Dr.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(619) 367-7511



CLIMBING IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Joshua Tree National Park is one of the most popular rock climbing areas in the world. More than 4,500 established climbs offering a wide range of difficulty are located within the park's 794,993 acres. Over one million people visit Joshua Tree each year, many of them rock climbers.

The National Park Service mission requires park managers to provide for the enjoyment of the park by today's visitor while conserving and protecting park resources for future generations. Dramatic increases in visitation, coupled with decreased staffing, burden an already difficult, sometimes contradictory, task. Park managers are concerned about trash, soil erosion, vegetation damage, human waste disposal, natural and cultural resource protection, and overcrowding—as well as the quality of each visitor's experience.

This brochure is devoted to what you, as a climber, can do to help preserve your enjoyment of this unique recreational resource. Help protect the American treasure we call Joshua Tree National Park.

REGULATIONS

- Pets must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed more than 100 yards from the road.
- Bicycles are considered vehicles; ride only on roads legally open to motorized traffic.
- Do not climb within 50 feet of Native American rock art.
- Motorized drilling is prohibited within park boundaries, and bolting is not allowed in congressionally designated wilderness.
- Climbers may not begin or end a climb in an occupied campsite without the occupant's permission.
- Park cars in designated parking areas, never off the roadway on vegetation.
- Commercial climbing instruction or filming requires a commercial use license which is available at park headquarters.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

WEATHER The best climbing weather occurs from late October to early December and March through April. Winter days—and especially winter nights—can be quite cold; summer days, extremely hot.

FOOD, WATER, AND OTHER NECESSITIES

There are no facilities except outhouses in the park. You may fill your water jugs at the visitor centers in Twentynine Palms and Cottonwood, and at Black Rock Canyon and Indian Cove ranger stations. The towns of Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Twentynine Palms have supermarkets, reasonably priced restaurants, climbing equipment shops, and emergency medical services.

SHOWERS Showers are available at several local motels, campgrounds, and fitness centers. In bad weather, you can buy daily memberships to train at fitness centers.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Protection of cultural resources is a serious issue facing climbers at Joshua Tree and other parks with significant remains of historic and prehistoric cultures. By law, archaeological sites and remains may not be disturbed in any way. This includes rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs), habitation sites (rock shelters and camp sites), and cultural remains (pottery vessels and sherds, projectile points, stone tools, and beads).

Climbing within 50 feet of Native American rock art is prohibited because pictographs (paintings) and petroglyphs (carvings) are damaged by skin oils, chalk, and boot rubber.

Private holdings and some historical sites within the park are closed to the public. This includes Keys Ranch—except when accompanied by a ranger.

The numerous mining sites found throughout the park should not be entered. Mine shafts are extremely unstable and are often filled with harmful gases.

NATURAL RESOURCES

In order to protect sensitive wildlife habitat, the Wonderland of Rocks and the Queen Mountain

area are designated *Day Use Areas*. This allows desert wildlife to visit water sources undisturbed. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry (defined as more than 100 yards from the road) to protect wildlife. The scent of a dog near a water source can keep animals away from needed water.

The park is home to several species of plants designated as endangered or threatened; three of these grow only at the base of rock formations. Avoid trampling all plant life.

Birds sometimes build nests on climbing routes. The routes are then closed to protect the eggs and hatchlings. Please abide by these occasional closures and report nesting birds whenever you encounter them.

HUMAN WASTE

This issue is clearly on climbers' minds; take a look at the route names in the guidebook! In areas where outhouses are not available, choose a spot at least 50 yards from water sources, trails, and the bases of climbs. Dig a six inch "cat-hole," then cover the waste. Pack out used toilet paper. Coyotes may dig up the waste later and if toilet paper is left, it will be blown about by the wind creating an unhealthy and unsightly situation.

