



Trad Dayz Joshua Tree Curriculum

Note the below schedule is subject to change

Day 1: Focus will be on gear placements (active and passive), and traditional anchor building

8am: Guest meet up outside of Joshua Tree National Park

8:15am-8:45am: Travel to climbing venue for the day, unpack gear, and setup

8:45am-9am: Guest intros and personal gear discussions

9am-10am: Ground school gear placements. After a quick demonstration given by GSG Lead Guide Greg Davis, all guests will work on placing gear in a ground school setting using a multitude of different gear. Those with more gear placing experience than others will be challenged to place gear in more obscure places. The first hour will have a strong focus on the below.

- Cams – focus on horizontal and vertical placements
- Guests will be graded on each placement using the A-F grading scale
- Group assessments of all placements will be completed for constructive/ positive feedback

10am-11:30am: Traditional anchor building utilizing a cordalette. After a demonstration by Greg, we will break off into teams of 2 and work on building the below traditional anchors.

- Equalized Cordalette – easiest to build but least equalized
- Trad Quad – quick to build with a large masterpoint, difficult to master
- Equalette – involves a non-traditional masterpoint and can be complicated to build

11:30-Noon: Lunch break

12:00pm-1pm: Advanced anchoring incorporating slings. After lunch we will explore the idea of equalization by using slings and shorter cord to achieve the same results. This session will include the below.

- Using multiple slings in a single traditional anchor
- Using a sling pocket
- Using cam thumb loops

1pm-2:30pm: Joshua Tree Anchors. Using static ropes, we'll review Joshua Tree anchors and incorporate how to build instructor tethers and how we use these to our advantage. This session will cover the below.

- Where would we use these recreationally?
- Discuss the difference of a 3 piece top rope anchor and a 2 piece leg of a Joshua Tree anchor
- Introduce a rappel transition incorporating an instructor tether

2:30pm-4pm: Depending on the schedule and our guests desires there may be a few more topics we cover or we may simply look at going for a quick climb somewhere near by!

Day 2: Focus will be on mock leading, traditional multipitch climbing and rappelling

8am: Guest meet up outside of Joshua Tree National Park

8:15am-8:45am: Travel to climbing venue for the day, unpack gear, and setup

8:45am-9am: Gear up and head out to work on building anchors with static ropes. During your approach to the climbing area we'll focus on approach topics as outlined below.

- Are we carrying our gear to the climb in a safe and efficient manner?
- Discussion around inadvertently soloing and tools to avoid that situation
- Edge awareness and top managed site security

9am-10:30am: More anchor construction. We'll have our guests work on their weaknesses from the previous day, ensuring they understand the areas they need to work on most with building anchors. During this time we'll also focus on the below topics.

- Discussion around when a traditional 3 piece anchor would work and when you would want to extend an anchor even further and why?
- Directionals: When and why you would use a directional?
- Social aspects: Not completely consuming a climbing area/ crag. Sharing the crag with other groups. Music, is this ok? Dogs at the crag, etc... We want to have a strong emphasis of being stewards of the park
- Rappelling transitions

10:30am-2:30pm: Mock leading. We'll now put your gear placement skills to the test and do multiple mock leads during this time period. Guests will mock lead, placing gear as they climb, and one of our Guides will evaluate your placements along the way, giving you real time feedback using the A-F grading scale. Guests are welcome to take lunch and snack breaks in between mock leads. Focus besides just gear placements will be:

- Extensions
- Stance and economy of gear
- Back cleaning/ bumping
- Doubling up on small gear/ poor placements

2:30pm-3:30pm: Multi pitch transitions and rappelling. After our mock leads we'll have 3-4 anchor stations at ground level and will touch on anchor transitions for multi pitch along with rappelling.

4:00: Debrief with your GSG Lead Guide, Greg Davis; Takeaways, next steps, things to work on?

