

# MOUNTAINEERING STANDARDS (10-MOU)

**Description** - Mountaineering and rock climbing standards. Services may also involve transportation, camping, meal services, and instruction. Camps are established according to Leave-No-Trace (LNT) principles. Overnight meals are in accordance with Backcountry Food and Beverage standards (10-FBK). Mountaineering Field Observation forms are used to collect information in the field.

**\*Standards that can only be observed in the field are marked with an asterisk (\*).**

In general, the following definitions apply to these terms throughout the standards:

- Adequate: As much as necessary for the intended duration of use
- Appropriate: Suitable to the level of service or as specified in the operating plan
- Clean: Free from dirt, marks, stains, or unwanted matter
- Neat: Arranged in an orderly, tidy manner
- Operational: In use or ready for use
- Sufficient: Enough for the number of persons
- Well-maintained: Kept in good order or condition

Standard Number	EQUIPMENT STANDARDS	A, B, C Ranking
	<b>Transportation</b>	
1	<b>Condition</b> - Transportation is adequate, operational, and well-maintained. Storage areas appropriately accommodate gear and are secure from injuring passengers.	B
2	<b>Registration, Licensing, and Insurance</b> - Transportation and operators are licensed and insured in accordance with federal and state laws.	A
3	<b>Identification</b> - Identification is in accordance with federal, state, or local laws. The company name and logo are visible.	A
	<b>Equipment</b>	
4	<b>Mountaineering Equipment</b> - Climbing equipment is appropriate, adequate, operational, and well-maintained. Technical equipment is inspected and use logs are maintained in accordance with the contract. Damaged or defective equipment is immediately repaired, removed, or replaced.	A
5	<b>Overnight Camping</b> - Overnight gear and equipment is adequate, clean, and well-maintained.	B
6	<b>Water Purification</b> - Water purifiers are adequate and operational. Water storage is sufficient for the duration of the trip and the number of clients and guides.	A
	<b>Safety</b>	
7	<b>Emergency Equipment</b> - Appropriate emergency medical equipment is adequate, well-maintained, and operational.	A
8	<b>Communication</b> - Emergency communication equipment is adequate, two-way, and operational.	A

9	*	<b>Unattended Climbers</b> - Climbers are not left unattended along the trail, route, or in camp, unless specifically authorized in the operating plan.	A
10		<b>Permits</b> - Climbing permit registration and closeout are accurate and timely.	A
<b>OPERATIONAL STANDARDS</b>			
<b>Services</b>			
<b>Reservation Services</b>			
11		<b>Availability</b> - Reservation services are available via telephone, mail, and fax during business hours; and internet 24/7, if available.	B
12		<b>Trip Information</b> - Guides or staff provide accurate trip information. Matching information is posted on the concessioner's website, if available.	B
13		<b>Deposits</b> - Deposit policies are approved by the park, and deposit information is disclosed at the time of the reservation.	B
14		<b>Trip Cancellation</b> - Trip cancellation policy includes notification and refund procedures, and is approved by the park.	A
<b>Climbing Services</b>			
15		<p><b>Safety and Activity Orientation</b> - Safety briefing at a minimum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature and demands of trip</li> <li>• Safety and emergency procedures</li> <li>• Climbing rules and park regulations</li> <li>• Wildlife interactions</li> <li>• Pre-Climb gear check</li> <li>• LNT practices</li> </ul> <p>Safety briefings for daily activities and excursions are given.</p>	A
16	*	<b>Trail/Route Etiquette</b> - Climbs are on established trails or snow if available. Instruction does not interfere with other park visitors.	A
17	*	<b>Restricted Areas</b> - Access to restricted areas is enforced.	A
18		<b>Wildlife</b> - Park regulations prohibiting the feeding or disturbing of wildlife are adhered to. Climbers are briefed regarding how to avoid interactions. If required, staff report wildlife sightings to the park.	A
19	*	<b>Safety and Security Requirements</b> - Guides inspect climbing and safety equipment and monitor climbers' condition to provide the safest climb possible.	A
20		<b>Group Size</b> - Climbing trip group sizes do not exceed authorized limits.	B
21		<b>Climber/Guide Ratios</b> - Client-to-guide ratios are adhered to.	B
22	*	<b>Use Allocation</b> - Use allocation and assigned area restrictions are adhered to.	A
23		<b>Trip Log and Reporting Requirements</b> - Trip logs are appropriate, accurate, and well-maintained. Trip logs are provided to the park upon request, or submitted according to schedule.	B
<b>Environmental Protection</b>			

24	*	<b>Garbage and Trash</b> - Garbage and micro-trash is collected during the trip, and where appropriate, contained in a wildlife-proof container. All garbage and micro-trash is transported out of the park at the end of the trip.	A
25	*	<b>Hazardous Materials</b> - Fuel and other hazardous materials are handled, stored, and disposed of in compliance with state and federal laws, and in accordance with park-approved risk and environmental management plans.	A
26	*	<b>Sanitation</b> - Human waste disposal procedures are followed in accordance with Backcountry and Leave-No-Trace (LNT) policies, as well as other park and public health requirements.	A
27	*	<b>Camping</b> - Camps are established on the most durable surfaces available in accordance with Backcountry and Leave-No-Trace (LNT) policies. Camps are removed in accordance with the contract.	B
28	*	<b>Caching</b> - Equipment or food caches are marked and left only in authorized locations. Caches are removed in accordance with the contract.	B
29	*	<b>Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources</b> - Natural and cultural resources or artifacts are not damaged, disturbed, or removed.	A
		<b>Personnel</b>	
30		<b>Guide/Crew Qualifications and Licenses</b> - Guides have the level of skill and experience required by the contract. Guides have Wilderness First Responder Certifications. Licenses and certifications are available upon request.	A
31		<p><b>Training</b> - Guides are trained in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Climbing safety, route selection, and objective hazards</li> <li>• Ropework and anchors</li> <li>• Client care and communication</li> <li>• Camp safety</li> <li>• Leave-No-Trace</li> <li>• NPS mission and park resources</li> </ul> <p>Training is documented and available upon request.</p>	A
		<b>Rates</b>	
32		<b>Approved Rates</b> - Rates and other customer charges do not exceed those approved by the superintendent.	A

**Ranking Definitions**

**Major:** First Priority (A) conditions or practices create or have the potential to exert a **significant** impairment to visitor or employee health and safety, park resources, visitor services or visitor enjoyment, Concession Facilities, or associated personal property.

**Moderate:** Second Priority (B) conditions or practices create or have the potential to exert a **moderate** impairment to visitor or employee health and safety, park resources, visitor services or visitor enjoyment, Concession Facilities, or associated personal property.

**Minor:** Third Priority (C) conditions or practices create or have a potential to exert a **minor** impairment to visitor or employee health and safety, park resources, visitor services or visitor enjoyment, Concession Facilities, or associated personal property.