



USA CLIMBING ROUTESETTING CLINIC AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Basic Information:

USA Climbing (USAC) provides routesetting instruction, training, and certification to routesetters at various levels. The development of the USA Climbing Routesetting Clinic and Certification Program (USAC RCCP) evolved from earlier instructional and certification programs in competition climbing, including the clinics instructed by the American League of Forerunners in the 1990s, and those instructed by Tony Yaniro, for the JCCA, USCCA, and USAC between 2000 and 2005. Since 2006, the USA Climbing Routesetting Committee (USAC RSC) has further developed the clinic instructional programs and certification system that USA Climbing now uses for sanctioned competition climbing.

The USAC RCCP has two primary goals:

- Provide quality instruction in fundamental routesetting skills, and methods and techniques used for effective competition routesetting.
- Help ensure standards, consistency, and quality of routesetting at USAC events and the continued growth of competition climbing, by officially certifying qualified routesetters in the US at appropriate levels corresponding to the USAC competition level structure.
- The USAC RCCP achieves these goals through Level 1 and Level 2 Routesetting Clinic instruction, and a formal Internship program for routesetters who have achieved Level 2 Certification and are interested in advancing as National level routesetters.

Certification Levels:

There are five levels of USAC routesetting certification:

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

Level 1 certifies basic proficiency and that an individual is competent to be an assistant routesetter for any local USAC competitions. Level 2 certifies that a routesetter is qualified to be Chief Routesetter at any local USAC competition; and at Regional level competitions for which they have received an endorsement in the specific discipline of competition climbing: *youth bouldering; adult bouldering, youth sport, and adult sport*. These endorsements acknowledge the routesetter's proficiency in individual disciplines and denote that the individual is qualified to be *Chief Routesetter* for competitions at the applicable level. Level 3 Certification acknowledges that a routesetter who has successfully completed a National Internship. Level 4 Certification acknowledges that a routesetter has completed a National Apprenticeship, is eligible to be an Assistant Routesetter at any National competition, and is eligible as Chief Routesetter at Divisional Level competitions for which they have received an endorsement. Level 5 Certification acknowledges a routesetter is eligible as a Chief Routesetter at National Level competitions for which they have received an endorsement.

More details on the USAC certification, including a detailed matrix outlining the certification and endorsement levels, as well as a current list of USAC certified routesetters can be found at www.usacsetting.net.

USAC Routesetting Instructors:

The USAC RCCP is overseen by the Routesetting Committee. USAC Instructors are all Level 4 Certified Routesetters with decades of combined experience. Current Instructors are:

- Chris Danielson** (USAC Level 5 Routesetter; USAC RSC Chairman, IFSC Routesetter)
- Molly Beard** (USAC Level 5 Routesetter; RSC Member)
- Mike Helt** (USAC Level 5 Routesetter; RSC Member)
- John Muse** (USAC Level 5 Routesetter)
- Luke Bertelsen – Assistant Instructor** (USAC Level 5 Routesetter)

USAC Routesetting Clinics – Overview

Level 1 Clinic Details:

Level 1 Clinics provide instruction for new and experienced routesetters alike, giving individuals an opportunity to learn and practice fundamental routesetting skills valuable for commercial and competition routesetting. In a Level 1 Clinic, one day is spent focusing on boulder setting and another on route-specific setting, with various exercises presented. Each routesetter is asked to set both routes and boulder problems and is given the opportunity to work with others in the forerunning process, gaining valuable feedback from the experienced USAC Routesetting Instructor and peers alike. Routesetters gain insight into methods and techniques dealing with efficiency, hold manipulation, creative movement, aesthetics, youth setting, forerunning and the calibration or “tweaking” process in commercial and competition environments.

Level 1 Certification is provided to successful participants who have demonstrated proficiency in the basic routesetting skills presented and practiced, and an understanding of the methods and ideas introduced regarding redpoint and onsite competition routesetting.

Level 2 Clinic Details:

Level 2 Clinics have a significantly higher level of instruction and evaluation, with intense focus on onsite competition routesetting. The goals of the Level 2 Clinic are to provide an environment for experienced competition routesetters to demonstrate their skills, learn specific techniques and approaches for onsite competition routesetting, and to then evaluate the ability of those routesetters to work effectively as routesetters or, if among the best qualified, as Chief Routesetters, at USAC Championship (Regional/Divisional/National) Level competitions. In a Level 2 Clinic, one day is spent focusing on boulder setting and another on route-specific setting. Each routesetter sets multiple problems and a route, testing their knowledge of USAC youth categories, difficulty, and routesetting for fairness and separation of a field. Additionally, routesetters are evaluated on their creativity, ability to force movements, understanding of hold manipulation, communication skills and teamwork – all important skill sets for an effective Chief Routesetter to have.

Level 2 Certification and applicable endorsements (youth bouldering, adult bouldering, youth sport, adult sport) are provided to successful participants. Those setters who have attained Level 2 certification are then certified to be Chief Routesetters at Regional Level competitions, in disciplines in which they attained the endorsement.

Hosting Details:

In order to host a Level 1 Clinic, a host facility must have significant roped *and* bouldering terrain, sufficient for hosting ABS and SCS local climbing competitions. To host a Level 2 Clinic, a host facility must have significant roped and bouldering terrain sufficient for hosting ABS and SCS Championship level competitions (Regional/Divisional/National).

Additionally, any host facility and must have adequate additional resources, sufficient to accommodate the expected number of clinic participants. These resources include ladders, working ropes, enough clean holds for routesetting, and other equipment such as folding tables and chairs. A host facility representative, such as the climbing gym owner, manager, or chief routesetter will be expected to communicate directly with the USAC Routesetting Instructor, to ensure adequate preparations are made for the clinic.

Host Fees:

A host facility pays a host fee directly to USAC upon confirmation of the clinic. This host fee varies depending on the clinic type and the number of participants represented from the facility included in the host fee, also depends on the clinic type. Host facilities do not recoup the host fee costs by charging individual participants.

Participation:

ALL participants beyond those included in the host fee must pay a separate participation fee (varies depending on clinic type) directly to USAC, and must purchase a \$55 USA Climbing Routesetter Membership. This \$55.00 membership cost for each individual is in addition to the gym host fee or any individual participant fees.

Scheduling Clinics:

USAC Routesetting Clinics are currently scheduled through the Routesetting Committee Chairperson, Chris Danielson. Private Level 1 Clinics can be scheduled at any time convenient for the host facility and when an Instructor is available. Public Level 1 and Level 2 Clinics must be scheduled a minimum of 3 months in advance in order to provide time for USAC to announce and advertise, and for individual participants to register, or in the case of Level 2 Clinics, for individual participants to apply and their applications to be reviewed. The goal of the USAC RCCP is to offer various Level 1 Clinics throughout each year with a schedule planned that offers opportunities for routesetters in as many regions as possible. Generally the RCCP will offer two Public Level 2 Clinics per year, in different regions. Contact Chris at cdanielson@gthi.com for more information or to schedule a clinic.

Hosting a Private Level 1 Clinic Overview

A private Level 1 Clinic is ideal for smaller climbing facilities and/or those interested in training their own routesetting staff or volunteers. The gym pays a host fee directly to USAC which *includes* the participation cost of up to 8 routesetters. These routesetters are selected by the host facility directly and do not have to register for the clinic itself, but must register for a USAC Routesetter Membership.

Benefits to Host Facility:

- Host facility selects (up to) eight individual routesetters to participate, with a primary focus on improving the routesetting at the host facility.
- High instructor to participant ratio results in more hands-on time for routesetters.
- Minimal impact on facility operations.

Clinic Duration: 2 days

Host Fee: \$1,600.00

Private Level 1 Clinic Total Participants: 8 maximum

Participant Costs: No individual participant fees, but mandatory **\$55 USAC Routesetter Membership**.

Hosting a Public Level 1 Clinic Overview

A public Level 1 Clinic is ideal for larger climbing facilities, new gyms, and those interested in training a small number of their own routesetting staff or volunteers and/or welcoming routesetters from outside the facility. The facility pays a host fee directly to USAC which *includes* the participation cost (equivalent to \$400) of four routesetters. A host facility of a public Level 1 Clinic must be able to accommodate up to 20 total routesetters over a 2-day period.

Benefits to Host Facility:

- Host facility benefits from the work of other routesetters joining the clinic, with diverse backgrounds and experiences, typically representing many gyms from around the US.
- For new climbing facilities, hosting a public Level 1 Clinic can be an excellent opportunity to create pre-opening buzz among the community and a chance to evaluate routesetters with the objective input of USAC.
- The value of the route and boulder problems produced, as a product (though varying depending on the region or facility) is typically estimated at between \$600.00 and as much as \$1,200.00.

Clinic Duration: 2 days

Host Fee: \$800.00 (Includes four host routesetters, but each must purchase **\$55 USAC Routesetter Membership**.)

Public Level 1 Clinic Total Participants: 20 maximum (Including the four host facility routesetters.)

Participant Costs: \$145 participant fee and mandatory \$55 USAC Routesetter Membership.

Hosting a Public Level 2 Clinic Overview

A Level 2 Clinic is ideal for Championship Level (Regional/Divisional/National) host facilities that are interested in training two or more of their own routesetters, and providing a training ground for other routesetters also seriously interested in routesetting for Championship Level USAC events. The facility pays a host fee directly to USAC which *includes* the participation cost (equivalent to \$600) of two routesetters. These two routesetters are selected by the host facility and do not have to apply or register for the clinic itself, but must purchase the \$55 USAC Routesetter Membership. *All* other routesetters must apply for the clinic directly through USAC and are selected by the Chief Instructor. Level 2 Clinics host facilities will be chosen based on a combination of factors including: quality of facility terrain and amenities; experience hosting USAC Championship Level events; and facility location.

Benefits to Host Facility:

- Training of two host facility routesetters and certification, upon their successful performance.
- High instructor to participant ratio (1:5) results in more hands-on time for routesetters.
- The value of the route and boulder problems produced, as a product (though varying depending on the region or facility) is typically estimated at between \$600.00 and as much as \$1,200.00.

Clinic Duration: 3 days

Host Fee: \$1,200.00 (Includes two host routesetters, but each must pay \$55 USAC Routesetter Membership.)

Public Level 2 Clinic Total Participants: 10 maximum (Including two host facility routesetters.)

Participant Costs: \$300 participant fee and mandatory \$55 USAC Routesetter Membership.