

About the CWA Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program

01/10/2019

Dear CWA Member:

The Climbing Wall Association, Inc. (CWA) has developed and sponsors a certification program for climbing wall instructors. *We would like you to participate in this program.* The program is called the “Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program” (CWA CWI). The purposes of the certification program are to:

- Establish a *voluntary* certification for climbing instructors,
- Maintain a uniform set of consensus performance standards industry wide,
- Professionalize indoor climbing instruction around the world, and
- Proactively protect the industry from inappropriate regulation.

The program was designed to be easily integrated into existing staff training programs or to be used as a turn-key, revenue-generating program for climbing facilities. You should find it is the most cost-effective and flexible certification program on the market.

The focus of the CWA Climbing Wall Instructor certification program is to assess the ability of the candidate to *teach technical climbing skills*, especially belay technique, on artificial terrain. The CWA CWI certification program includes two levels of certification:

1. A certification for climbing wall instructors (with a top-rope or lead endorsement), and
2. A certification for program providers.

The CWA Certification Program can assist owners or managers of climbing facilities in training staff to a minimum, consistent standard of performance in technical climbing instruction. The CWA Certification program will not cover all the necessary topics required at a particular company, program, or facility. However, the program and curriculum should address the basic technical competencies for climbing wall instructors regardless of venue. The primary documents governing the program are:

- the standards,
- the evaluation instrument,
- the program policy manual, and
- the student manual.

All these documents are available free of charge to you and the public. You can find the program materials on our website under “resources” -> “standards.” The link to the page for certificants is here:

<https://climbingwallindustry.site-ym.com/page/Certification>

and the link for the page for program providers here:

<https://climbingwallindustry.site-ym.com/page/CWIProviders>



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The CWA offers a Climbing Wall Instructor Provider Course at least twice a year at the Climbing Wall Summit and at the Certification Summit. The course is typically an eight to twelve hour course with the assumption that provider candidates are highly-skilled climbers and experienced instructors. Completion of the provider training course may or may not be required of you depending upon your level of training, prior experience, and whether you plan to offer the course to employees only or to the general public. In any case, we highly recommend you complete the provider course. In order to be a certification program provider, you must apply, be accepted, agree to abide by the program policies and maintain your CWA membership.

The training will provide an overview of the Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program, the standards, the evaluation instrument, the policy manual, the student manual and the general course flow. Provider candidates must be familiar with the primary program documents prior to attending the training and should have completely mastered the material in the Student Manual.

A portion of the training will be spent evaluating your technical skills and teaching ability; we will also spend time in scenarios to develop consistent delivery of course content, fair student evaluation, providing effective student feedback, risk management, and in discussing the consensus pass/fail standards.

If you are interested in becoming a program provider and believe you are qualified to train candidates to our standards, please fill out the application materials which you can find here:

<http://climbingwallindustry.org/?page=CWIProviders>

If you have any questions about the certification program after you have reviewed the application material, please contact Heather Reynolds at the CWA at (720) 683-6645 or via email at certification@climbingwallindustry.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William Zimmermann'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

William Zimmermann, CEO
Climbing Wall Association, Inc.