



**TCI[®] TREE CLIMBING PROGRAM
FOR ENTRY LEVEL TREE WORKERS
PROGRAM CONTENT AND OUTLINE**

Gear (taught throughout the program)

Rope	Rigging sling
Saddle and saddle accessories	Pulleys: spring lock rigging block, swivel pulley, hitch climber pulley
Helmet	Eye-to-Eye hitch cord
Eye Protection with straps	3-hole rigging plate or 3-hole pulley
Throw lines and throw bags	Sheathed telescoping pole saw w/scabbard
Double-auto-locking carabiners	Handsaw w/scabbard
Non-locking carabiners	Portawrap
Foot cam	Fiddle block
Knee Ascender	Big Shot (pole-mounted sling shot)
Cambium saver (sleeve)	APTA (Air Powered Tree Access) line gun
“Yella” grappel	

Knots (taught throughout the program)

Modified Blake’s hitch (closed system)	Half-hitch
Michoacan hitch (open system)	Basket hitch
6-wrap Prusik hitch	Daisy chain
Single Figure 8	Running bowline
Figure 8 on a bight	Anchor hitch
Girth hitch	Timber hitch
Safety knot (slip knot)	

DAY 1: TRADITIONAL CLIMBING SYSTEM using the Blake’s Hitch (“Closed system”)

Throw line use

Entry throws:

- Pinch grip throw
- Pointing finger throw
- Finger weave throw (gloved hands)
- Single cradle throw
- Cradle throw

Canopy throws:

- Forward arch throw
- Reverse arch throw
- Hand pitch throw

Rope placement

- Placing throw line over branch
- Cambium saver installation
- Tying the climbing knots
- Pull test

Preparing to climb

- Warm ups
- Saddle set-up
- Gear check
- Clipping in
- B.A.C.K. check (system check)

Climbing demonstration

- Double rope end climbing
- Setting a new pitch (anchor point)
- Testing the knot system (B.A.C.K. check)
- Climbing higher

Foot work demonstration

- Foot lock
- Foot wrap
- Double foot wrap
- Foot cam

DAY 2: APPLICATION OF CLIMBING TECHNIQUE

Advanced anchor point isolation using the
“Yella” grapnel hook

Monkey fist

Closed fist
Open fist
Self release fist
Getting the monkey fist back to you

Climbing practice

Double rope end climbing
Low climb using 4 foot work methods
Split grip method

Tree inspection

The Four Zone Assessment Method
Tools: mallet, soil probe, binoculars,
blunt screwdriver

DAY 3: ADVANCED CLIMBING TECHNIQUES

Lanyard use: positioning and life support

2-in-1 lanyard technique
Double-daisy rope technique

Hitch pulley climbing method (“open system”)

Hitch pulley system set-up
Rope walker system using knee ascender
Redirects using lanyard and hitch pulley
climbing system

Movement in the tree

Branch walking techniques (cat walk, back
walk, bird walk, and side walk)
Controlled back-swings (returning to
plumb) using lanyard, opposite rope
end, and “M” bight technique

DAY 4: APPLICATION OF CLIMBING TECHNIQUES

Advanced line setting and practice

Big Shot
APTA

Hitch pulley climbing practice

Branch walking practice

Double-crotch climbing technique (using
anchor points)

Lanyard practice

Positioning during branch walking
Temporary anchor point during rope
advance
Second tie-in point prior to cutting

DAY 5: RIGGING

Construction of false anchor/crotch

Basket hitch
Girth hitch

Running bowline use

Horizontal and vertical use with marline
hitch (branch tie-offs)
Running bowline as tip tie for pull line

Light duty self-tending load lift used for
hoisting gear

Remote false crotch set-up

Portable load line anchor/pulley set-up for
light to medium loads

Felling: Make a perfect notch every time

Three notches: Conventional, Humboldt,
open face

Shout calls and response commands

Portawrap lowering device: Set-up and use

Fiddle block: Set-up and use

Handsaw and pole saw: Safety and use

Spikes: Short Discussion

Gear: Open discussion

Questions