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

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

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

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

Felling: Make a perfect notch every time
  - Discussion of three notch types: Conventional, Humboldt, open face

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

Remote false crotch set-up

Portable load line anchor/pulley set-up

Felling: Make a perfect notch every time
  - Discussion of three notch types: Conventional, Humboldt, open face

Shout calls and response commands

Portawrap lowering device: Set-up and use

Spikes: Short Discussion

Gear: Open discussion

Questions