

BOEALPS ACC Student Application

Acceptance into the Alpine Climbing Class (ACC) is highly competitive; please take your time to submit a thoughtful and complete application.

Incomplete applications are considered weak and your chances of being accepted are greatly reduced.

A NOTE BEFORE APPLYING TO THE ACC

The extensive snow/glacier skills and rock climbing skills covered in typical 'Basic Mountaineering' and 'Basic Rock Climbing' classes (like the BOEALPS BMC and BOEALPS BRC classes) should be second nature for a prospective ACC student. They are reviewed briefly at the beginning of the ACC, but significant time will not be spent teaching those basic skills. In addition, prospective ACC students should have spent considerable time applying those skills climbing outside of classes getting the real hands-on experience necessary to ensure that those extensive foundational skills are truly mastered.

One of the first activities in class will be an assessment for all students to check their proficiency in a subset of those foundational skills; including tying a rewoven figure 8, harness checks, top rope belay technique with both an ATC and Grigri, standard belay and climb commands, setting up a redundant top rope anchor, and setting up a 2 strand rappel with an autoblock/third hand.

Knowing how to lead climb is not necessary for an ACC applicant. Basic experience with top rope rock climbing, up to at least 5.8, is required. If your only experience with rock climbing systems and movement is through a 'Basic Mountaineering' class (like the BOEALPS BMC); it is strongly suggested that you take the BOEALPS BRC (Basic Rock Class), take classes at a local climbing gym, or routinely get outside rock climbing with experienced friends prior to applying to the ACC. These are great ways to gain basic rock climbing skills (physical climbing skills and strength, understanding of climbing systems, lead belaying techniques, how to follow climbs, and much more).

The primary learning focus for the ACC is on two key skill set categories:

- 1 – Traditional Lead Climbing Skills (*mental and physical leading skills, protecting climbs, fall and situational risk awareness, route finding, cleaning climbs, etc*)
- 2 – Alpine Climbing Skills (*alpine problem solving and decision making, route finding, mixed/transitional climbing, situational awareness, adventure planning, etc*)

Learning these two skill sets is a serious undertaking for even the most experienced ACC students. Thus, having the foundational skills mastered already, committing considerable time and effort to the class (*i.e. climbing independently on off weekends, practicing skills at home in the evenings, and nerding out reading "The Freedom of the Hills"*), and being stoked for the adventures ahead; are all critical to succeed in the class. But the amazing experiences the class can empower graduates to pursue are stunning!

It is important to be honest with yourself and your current skill set. If you have the enthusiasm/desire, motivation, fitness required, and foundational skills; the class is achievable for most. The most important thing is to pick the right timing for taking the class. It should be after you have lots of substantive mileage deploying your basic mountaineering and climbing skills and feel comfortable in the mountains, but before you lead the West Ridge of Forbidden on an independent climb. If your skills and experience base feels a bit light for the ACC this year, then just be proactive about building it up (actively engaging with BOEALPS, other climbing communities, and other experienced climbers)... and apply for the ACC next year!

PERSONAL INFO & BACKGROUND

Application Type, Contact Info, Emergency Contacts, BOEALPS class history, etc.

Application Type Selection Info

All Boeing Persons (employees, contractors, family members, retirees, most former employees, etc) need to apply as 'BOEALPS Members' and must complete their current year [BOEALPS Member Application](#) before the first lecture if accepted. Full details on who qualifies to be a BOEALPS Member can be found in the [Membership Type & Annual Dues](#) section.

Non-Boeing persons are welcome, and should apply as 'BOEALPS Guests'.

Application Type *

- BOEING Employee, Retiree, or Family Member; must apply as a 'BOEALPS Member' (you can complete membership after being

accepted) – \$450

- Not a Boeing Employee, Retiree, or Family Member; must apply as a 'BOEALPS Guest' – \$490

Name *

Cliff Hanger

First Last

Preferred Pronouns *

he/him/his

E-mail *

CliffHanger@MountainMail.com

Phone *

000-000-0000

Address

(Street Address, City, State, Zip Code) *

123 Summit Peak Lane, Cliffside, MT 99999

Age *

30

Vehicle used for weekend outings

(Make, Model, Color, Year, # Passengers, License Plate #) *

Summit, Cruiser, Gray, 2020, 4, CL1FFHNG

BEMSID | yours or your family members

(for Boeing employees, retirees, and family members only)

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Health Insurance Carrier *

PeakCare Insurance

Emergency Contact #1 (Name, Relation, Phone #) *

Clara Hanger, Mother, 000-000-0000

Emergency Contact #2 (Name, Relation, Phone #) *

Mountain Mike, Father, 000-000-0000

Please list any health concerns that the head instructor needs to be aware of for your safety *

BMC | Have you taken the [BOEALPS BMC](#) Class? *

Yes, 2 years ago

BRC | Have you taken the [BOEALPS BRC](#) Class? *

No

Prior BOEALPS Instructing | BMC and BRC

(Class, # of Years, Most Recent Year, Instructor Role)

BMC, 1 year, 2025, 1st year

About how many mountaineering and alpine climbing outings have you been on in the last two years? *

20

ALPINE CLIMBER PROFILE

Note for this section: Higher values are not required and not necessarily better. Goal is just to characterize your alpine climbing profile to create better team dynamics.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID: Have you taken a Wilderness First Aid (WRFA, [WFA](#), or equivalent) class? (YES/NO, year taken) *

WFA, 2025

AIARE: Have you taken an AIARE avalanche class before? (YES/NO, AIARE Level, year taken) *

No

STOKE: Still happy to be outside in the alpine when... *

- 1 – it's a beautiful sunny day and you're crushing it.
- 2 – it's overcast and you're a bit cold.
- 3 – it's snowing, you're a bit wet, and a bit cold. (*most normal alpine climbers land about here*)
- 4 – it's raining, you're wet, a bit cold, and hungry.
- 5 – it's a down pour, you're wet, a bit cold, hungry, and hiding in a moat for shelter with an angry chirping marmot at 2am.

ALPINE TRAD LEAD GRADE: Your low stress (type 1 fun) alpine trad climbing lead grade (97%+ confidence in leading it clean with no takes)... *

- 1 – Low 5th class, or no trad climbing experience (*majority of students start here*)
- 2 – 5.4
- 3 – 5.6
- 4 – 5.7
- 5 – 5.8
- 6 – 5.9+

ALPINE EXPERIENCE: Total number of 'Alpine Style Climbs' (2+ day duration, long approach, with at least two 5.4+ grade pitches) you have been on... *

- 1 – None yet, but excited to get started (*most students start here*)
- 2 – 1 to 5
- 3 – 6 to 10
- 4 – 11 to 20
-

SNOW & ICE EXPERIENCE: Comfort level and experience with snow travel, ice climbing, and avalanche terrain & conditions experience (mark the highest # where all 3 categories still apply to you)... *

- 1 – 35-deg snow travel (e.g. standard routes up Baker), little to no ice climbing, and low avalanche terrain comfort. (*ACC required minimum*)
- 2 – 40-deg snow (hard or loose snow), some ice climbing experience, and some avalanche terrain & conditions experience.
- 3 – 45-deg snow (e.g. North Buttress Couloir on Colchuck), proficient at WI2 ice climbing, and AIARE level 1 plus 15+ days of avalanche experience.
- 4 – 50-deg snow, WI3 ice climbing, & AIARE level 1 plus 30+ days of avalanche terrain & conditions experience.
- 5 – 60-deg snow, WI4 ice climbing, & AIARE level 2 plus 45+ days of avalanche terrain & conditions experience.

FITNESS: Steep uphill hiking pace with a 25-lb pack that can be sustained for 4+ hours (in vertical feet per hour)... *

- 1 – 850 vert. ft/hr or ~3.5-hrs to climb up Mount Si without Haystack
- 2 – 1000 vert. ft/hr or ~3.0-hrs up Mount Si
- 3 – 1200 vert. ft/hr or ~2.5-hrs up Mount Si (*goal is for students to be at least at this level by Alpine 1*)
- 4 – 1500 vert. ft/hr or ~2.0-hrs up Mount Si
- 5 – 2000+ vert. ft/hr or ~1.5-hrs up Mount Si

BALANCE: Can easily and repeatedly perform the following balance exercise (mark the highest # you can do easily)... *

- 1 – Standing on 1 foot with eyes open for 30 sec without wobbling
- 2 – Standing on 1 foot with eyes closed for 30 sec
- 3 – Raise up onto just the ball of 1 foot with eyes open for 30 sec (*all ACC participants to be proficient to this level, practice to master*)
- 4 – Raise up onto just the ball of 1 foot with eyes closed for 30 sec
- 5 – Tree pose up on the ball of 1 foot with eyes closed for 30 sec

TYPICAL CLIMBING GYM: Current most visited climbing gym (Vertical World/ Edgeworks/SBP/etc), and gym location (Seattle/Bellevue/Everett/etc)... *

Vertical World, Seattle

SKILLS, TRAINING, AND GOALS

Your current skill levels (comfort levels), skill training history, and your motivation for taking the class.

GYM CLIMBING: How often you go in an average week, gym membership status (none / punch card / monthly), and belay certifications (Top Rope Belay / Lead Belay certified)... *

Once a week, punch card, Top Rope Belay & Lead Belay certified

DESCENDING STEEP SNOW: Current comfort level Descending Steep Snow in Mountaineering Boots (hard packed, soft, or loose wet snow)... *

- Have not descended steep snow before
- 30 degree slopes (e.g. a black diamond ski run)
- 35 degree slopes (e.g. standard routes on Baker)
- 40 degree slopes
- 45 degree slopes (e.g. NBC on Colchuck)
- 50 degree slopes or steeper

SCRAMBLING: Current comfort level Climbing Rock Unroped (scrambling / free soloing)... *

- Have not scrambled before
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5.0
- Class 5.4
- Class 5.6 or higher

TOP ROPE SPORT CLIMBING GRADE: Current comfort level for Top Rope Climbing outside like at Exit 38, Vantage, etc... *

- Have not tried outdoor Top Rope climbing before
- 5.6
- 5.7
- 5.8
- 5.9
- 5.10 or higher

RAPPPELLING: Current comfort level for 2 strand Rappelling outside like at Smith Rock, Squamish, Index, or Leavenworth... *

- Have not tried outdoor Rappelling before
- Comfortable rappelling if someone else has set the rope & they double check my personal rappel setup
- Comfortable rappelling if someone else has set the rappel rope, and comfortable setting up & checking my own personal rappel setup without help
- Comfortable setting single pitch rappel ropes, comfortable setting up & checking my own personal rappel setup, and have used an autoblock before
- Comfortable setting, checking, and using multi pitch rappel independently; and have done more than 25 outdoor rappels in the last 2 years
- Comfortable with awkward/difficult/dangerous rappels like: moderate angle ridge line rappels, traversing rappels, anchor point below your feet...

TRAD FOLLOW GRADE FOR CRAGGING: Current comfort level for Following Traditional Rock in a cragging environment like at Smith Rock, Squamish, Index, or Leavenworth... *

- Have not tried Following Trad before, or 5.4
- 5.6
- 5.7
- 5.8
- 5.9
- 5.10 or higher

CLIMB COMMITMENT LEVEL: Current comfort level for climb NCCS [Commitment Grade](#) (duration and remoteness)... *

- Grade 1: Several Hours
- Grade 2: Half a Day
- Grade 3: Most of a Day for technical climbing portion (excluding approach/deproach)
- Grade 4: Full Day for technical climbing portion
- Grade 5: 1.5 Days of technical climbing, with an overnight required on route
- Grade 6: 2 or More Days of technical climbing

Ice Axe Arrest Training | most recent year, details:

2025, BMC student instructor

Crevasse Rescue Training | most recent year, details:

2025, BMC instructor

Rock Climbing Training | most recent year, details, type:

2025, self taught indoor/top rope outdoor

Placing Rock Protection Training | most recent year, details:

Briefly describe your most physically demanding climb to date (a long and arduous climb, e.g. Mount Rainier): *

Mount Rainier via the Emmons-Winthrop route, July 2025. Was a team member on a independent climb after the end of BMC. Did over two days, staying at Camp camp Schurman with an Alpine start of 11:30 PM. Final stats were 10,000ft of gain and 17 miles round trip. The combination of such an early alpine start with the long day and elevation made staying fueled and energetic a unique challenge for me that I learned a lot from.

Maximum of 250 words. *Currently Used: 78 words.*

Briefly describe your most technically demanding climb to date (hardest grade and biggest commitment level): *

5.6 R&D in Leavenworth, Sep 2025. I followed the entire climb with a more experienced partner. This was my first multi-pitch climb, and I got exposure on how to find the base of a technical route, and route finding while on the climb. This was also a good experience with rope management, and trad climbing on Leavenworth rock.

Maximum of 250 words. *Currently Used: 58 words.*

Briefly describe your planned endurance training plan between now and end of March to prepare for the class: *

To get into shape for the class I am planning weekly evening runs, with a goal of 3 runs per the work week. On weekends (when climbing doesn't get in the way!), I am planning hikes along I-90 to get some workouts in with elevation gain.

Maximum of 250 words. *Currently Used: 46 words.*

Please explain your motivations for taking the ACC, and what goals you hope to achieve by taking the class: *

BMC was my introduction to most mountaineering skills, especially those involving rope work. One skill that immediately captured my interest was rock climbing, and I knew I wanted to develop greater proficiency in it. Over the past year, I have solidified my rope skills through both personal practice and instructing BMC, participated in more BMC-level mountaineering trips, engaged in top-rope outdoor climbing, and recently begun exploring indoor lead climbing. I believe I have now built a strong foundation to be successful in the ACC. Through ACC, I hope to deepen my knowledge and enhance my abilities in lead rock climbing and mountaineering more broadly. This expanded skill set

Maximum of 250 words. *Currently Used: 153 words.*

CLIMBING ACHIEVEMENTS

Please provide details on seven of your most significant climbing achievements. Note that Independent Climbs (without a guide and not part of a class) carry more weight, and should be the bulk of your entries.

Please include the following information:

[Mountain or Crag],[Route],[Difficulty],[Lead, Follow, Shared, or Top Rope],[Date],[Comments]

Examples:

* *Black Peak, NE Ridge, 5.2, Follow, June 2018, entire NE ridge simul-climbing in 12 hours car to car*

* *Glacier Peak, White Chuck/Gerdine/Cool Glacier, Grade II Glacier, July 2019, 3 day trip*

* *Smith Rock, Super Slab, Left Slab Crack, Right Slab Crack, 5.6, 5.4, 5.5, Follow, Lead, Follow, Sept 2020*

A strong application will include a well-rounded mix of accomplishments.

Please make sure to fill ALL seven of these out.

Climb 1 | Technical Rock Route #1

Mount Olympus, via Blue Glacier + Crystal Pass, 1 pitch 5.4 summit block, Follow, August

Role during climb 1

Team Member on Independent Climb ▾

Climb 2 | Technical Rock Route #2

Leavenworth, R & D, Canadians on Horseback, 5.6, 5.6, Follow, Follow, Sep 2025

Role during climb 2

Team Member on Independent Climb ▾

Climb 3 | Snow/Glacier Route #1

Snowfield Peak, via Neve Glacier, class 3 summit block, Follow, July 2024, team of 3

Role during climb 3

Team Member on Independent Climb ▾

Climb 4 | Snow/Glacier Route #2

Mount Rainier, Emmons-Winthrop route, Lead on glacier rope team, July 2025

Role during climb 4

Team Member on Independent Climb ▾

Climb 5 | Any Climb/Route

Sahale Peak, via Quien Sabe Glacier, June 2025, instructor on BMC Grad Climb

Role during climb 5

Trip Leader or Instructor ▾

Climb 6 | Any Climb/Route

Mount Baker, via Easton Glacier, June 2023, 2 days 5 people

Role during climb 6

Client with Guide ▾

Climb 7 | Any Climb/Route

Eldorado Peak, via East Ridge, June 2024, student on BMC Grad Climb

Role during climb 7

Student in Class (BMC climb / BRC / o) ▾

CLIMBING PARTNER REFERENCE

Please list the contact information for a partner or past instructor you have climbed with, who would be willing to speak about your qualifications for this class.

Reference Name, Phone #, Email Address *

Frosty McFreeze, 000-000-0000, FrostyMcFreeze@MountainMail.com

BOEALPS INSTRUCTING: Which of the following classes do you intend to instruct in the future? Check all that apply...

- BMC – Basic Mountaineering Class
- BRC – Basic Rock Class
- ACC – Alpine Climbing Class
- BOEALPS Board Member

SCHEDULE COMMITMENTS | 2026

Class dates are hard commitments, missing classes or outing is extremely disruptive, and make-ups are generally not available. Typically each outing runs from after work on Friday (4–7pm ish) through till late Sunday (7–10pm ish) when you include transportation time. Classroom sessions are typically the Monday evening prior to the respective weekend outing.

Please review the full schedule via the link below, add them to your personal calendar, and plan your spring and summer schedule accordingly now. If you have concerns about specific dates, please contact the head instructor(s).

In addition, there is a mandatory in-person fitness and balance evaluation in early February on a weekday evening at Golden Gardens in Seattle (rain or shine). Makeup fitness and balance evaluations are available, but must be pre-coordinated at least one day before hand (not on the day of the evaluation). The vast majority of applicants will be able to complete the evaluation comfortably; it is only intended to screen for outliers. Full details and video demonstrations of each of the 3 "challenges" can be found in the calendar event on the [BOEALPS Google Calendar](#).

The 'weekend outing' dates and the 'fitness and balance evaluation' date are shown below. For each one mark your schedule commitment or conflicts as follows:

- * 5 Star = 100% committed, can attend and will be there!
- * 4 Star = committed and can attend looking at my currently known schedule constraints
- * 3 Star = want to attend, but might have a conflict come up
- * 2 Star = have a known conflict, but will try to reschedule the conflicting commitment
- * 1 Star = have a known conflict and unfortunately cannot attend

Fitness and Balance Evaluation – 2/11 evening
6:30pm at Golden Gardens in Seattle *



Horsethief Outing – 3/21 weekend *



Snow Outing – 4/4 weekend *



Rescue Outing – 4/18 weekend *



Smith Rock Outing – 5/2 weekend *



Squamish Outing – 5/16 weekend *



Alpine 1 Outing – 5/30 weekend *



Alpine 2 Outing – 6/13 weekend *



Ice Outing – 6/27 weekend *



Alpine 3 Outing – 7/11 weekend *



WA Pass Outing – 7/25 weekend *



Grad Climb Outing – 8/8 weekend *



Schedule Constraints or Conflicts: If any of the above were not a '5 Star' please

explain here...

I have reviewed the [ACC Class Schedule](#) dates for all 11 Classroom Sessions & 11 weekend Outings, and understand the expectation they are hard commitments: *

Affirmative

RELEASE OF LIABILITY & PAYMENT

Applicants MUST completely read and fully understand the 'BOEALPS Release Of Liability' before completing this section and digitally signing the release. Contact the head instructor(s) if you have any questions on it.

I have read, understand, and agree to the following: *

	Yes
BOEALPS Release Of Liability	<input type="radio"/>
ACC Handbook	<input type="radio"/>

BOEALPS Release Of Liability Signature *

Payment Method *

Check or Cash

Questions / Comments / Additional Info

I am so excited to take ACC, I have heard so many good things about the class! I bring the best summit treats of anyone in BOEALPS (I made sure my reference could vouch for this). This text box can't even begin to convey how much I want to take ACC!

This field is entirely optional and entirely free-form. Use at your discretion!