

Route Development Ethics for Dierkes Lake Area and Snake River Canyon near Twin Falls, Idaho

This document offers best practices and recommendations for establishing climbing routes in the Twin Falls, Idaho area. Many of these guidelines stem from established, well-respected organizations such as the Access Fund (AF), American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA), and the Climbing Resource Advisory Group (CRAG) for Castle Rocks/City of Rocks. These suggestive measures are intended to assist those interested in route development around Twin Falls, Idaho.

1. Persons considering bolting or altering rock faces should first ascertain who owns or administers the land in question. For new or undeveloped crags, it is recommended that developers approach the land owner/manager for consultation and to acquire permission.
2. Persons interested in developing new routes are encouraged to adequately research and examine a new area before drilling holes for fixed hardware. Invite other climbers to look at your project. Where possible, build an anchor above and rappel the route to ensure it has quality rock, good climbing movement, and can be safely equipped for lead climbing. The Southern Idaho Climbing Coalition (SICC) is a good resource, and its board members are ready to help individuals develop high-quality climbing venues.
3. New routes should be bolted beyond reach such that they do not interfere with holds or bolts for an adjacent route.
4. Alterations to existing routes (including replacing bolts/anchors) should only be done with the consent of the first ascensionist. If the first ascensionist is not able to be contacted, then general approval from the climbing community should be sought. Contact SICC for more information.
5. The maximum bolt spacing on any bolt-protected routes should be such that the climb is considered safe by most climbers. The route developer is to take into consideration other climbers abilities, statures, and experience. Special care and consideration should be taken with the first several bolts of a route to avoid ground fall.
6. No new routes should exist:
 - a. on areas of cliffs with ancient rock art (petroglyphs or pictographs) or any other documented anthropologic resource.
 - b. on areas of cliffs with known and documented historic resources.
 - c. at other areas as per local regulations.The list above is not complete. Ignorance of any applicable regulations is not a valid excuse.
7. Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. The standards and guidelines stated herein are intended to ensure the safety of others and will help maintain continued access to climbing areas.

Well-developed climbing routes with thoughtfully placed bolts are more enjoyable to climb, whereas poor route-development practices can diminish the climbing experience and/or create an unsafe and dangerous setting. As more climbing areas are developed locally, it is essential that high standards and best practices are followed so that these areas remain safe, accessible, and of the highest quality possible.