

Basic Rock Climbing Class

Southwest Outdoor Club

Tempe, Arizona

BELAY SIGNALS

Roped climbing requires that one person be attached to the mountain while the other climbs. In addition, the two must have good communication signals so no mistakes are made in what one expects of the other. Climbers have standardized a set of signals to communicate with each other. They are listed below along with their meanings.

CLIMBER	BELAYER	MEANING	ACTION
"On Belay"		I want to go. Aren't you ready yet?	
	"Belay On"	All set; the belay is ready	
"Climbing"		Here I come	
	"Climb"	Come ahead	
"Slack"		I can't move without some slack in the rope,	Belayer pays out some rope - no verbal response required, "Slack" is always a request to give out more rope
"Up Rope"		Pull in the rope. There is too much loose rope between the climber and the belayer.	Belayer takes in some rope until the belayer can feel the climber - no verbal response required. "Up Rope" always means to make the rope tight
"Off Belay"		I am in a secure position and no longer need a belay	
	"Belay Off"	Echoed to insure there is no misunderstanding	
"Tension"		Pull the rope as tight as you can, I'm scared/about to fall, (Rarely used!)	Belayer pulls the rope as tight as possible and assumes the braking position. Prepares for a possible fall. No verbal response required
"Falling"		Catch me, I've come off the rock	Belayer uses the braking position to stop the fall. The braking position gives the greatest amount of friction and the most secure position for the belayer.
"Rock"	"Rock"	A rock has been dislodged and may be heading your way.	All climbers in the area must repeatedly echo this warning as loud as possible.