

The Big Creek Challenge Course

American Explorers and the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch collaborated with two leading challenge course design firms, Active Learning Group and Project Adventure, to construct a challenge course capable of serving the needs of multiple user groups while blending with the natural environment.

The course includes high and low elements. Two safety/belay technologies are employed: dynamic and static. The dynamic belay utilizes a safety team on the ground while the static belay clips the user into each element utilizing a “smart key” system that ensures the user is on belay at all times. The high elements are placed in three different clusters with two additional peak activities located in separate but nearby locations. The low elements are spread around the program area.

All Challenge Course use is under the supervision of American Explorers staff, trained in risk management and facilitation. We work to facilitate all challenge course activities to fit our partner group’s interests and time needs.

Low Elements



Mohawk Walk

Different length cables zig and zag between poles, some have multiline ropes for assistance, some do not. This is a great team building activity which carries many variations that can be adjusted to meet your groups’ needs. Traversing the element as a team or as individuals is always a focused challenge.

All Aboard

This activity involves a platform or two and goals are set as the name implies, the group is asked to get “all aboard”. This close and personal activity can explore comfort levels and get the group working closely and consciously with each other.

Full House

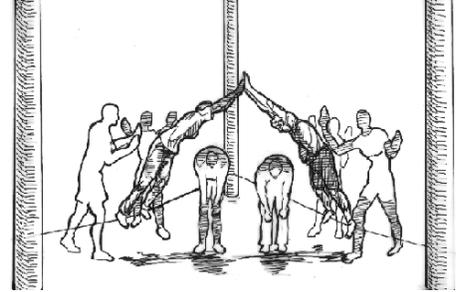
A series of 6"x6" beams assembled just off the ground in a pentagon shape. This element can pose a challenge when all participants standing on the beams and are asked trade spaces or align themselves by specific order, without touching the ground.

Multi- Swing

This is a classic element which can be utilized in many different ways. Groups are challenged to swing from one point to another without touching the ground. The group may be given a challenge to bring something along or other variations that involve teamwork and problem-solving.

Wild Woosy

Two cables strung in a V shape. Starting 1 foot apart the team connects hands and traverses the individual cables to the end where the cables are 10 feet apart. This exercise takes trust and balance and can emphasize that although the rest of the team may not be on the cable with them, they are necessary to support the two in the air.



High Elements



Burma Bridge to Zip-Line

This exhilarating 450 foot zip-line gazes up the beautiful Big Creek Canyon. To access the 30 foot tall platform where the zip-line starts you can traverse a 'burma bridge' or climb a pole. Once atop the platform your guide will attach you to a pulley and it is up to you to lift your feet and soar through the air. Gravity will slow you down as the pulley rolls past the belly of the cable and up the far side.

Swing Shot

A climber begins the experience by hanging from a cable, and their team members haul the climber back and up. When the climber is ready they pull a cord and pendulum swing.

Flying Squirrel

This is much like the swing shot but starts with the climber on the ground. The climber's team will run in the opposite direction of the climber and hoist them into the air. The climber has the choice to be hoisted straight up or if they get a running start to go up and swing simultaneously. They are then brought gently to the ground by their team.

Dangle Duo

Two climbers are challenged to ascend the element working together as the rungs of the ladder become farther and farther apart.

Diminishing Returns

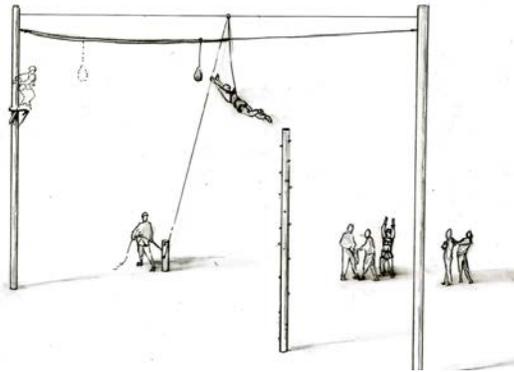
One climber ascends a pole to find one foot cable with a V-shaped rope that is allowed to slide along the foot cable. With the help of two teams on the ground the V in the rope can be moved side to side to provide supported passage of the participant in the air to the opposing pole.

WildER Woosey

Same as the Wild Woosey but with the added challenge of height. Two cables strung in a V shape. Starting 1 foot apart the team connects hands and traverses the individual cables to the end where the cables are 10 feet apart. This exercise takes trust and balance and can emphasize that although the rest of the team may not be on the cable with them, they are necessary to support the two in the air.

Lily Pads

This team based activity requires 7 to 15 participants with one brave sole in the air. The lily pads are manipulated from the ground to provide passage for the climber in the air. This activity requires good geometry and communication skills.



Pamper Pole/Leap of Faith

This Dynamic system is a challenge of the mind and the body. Climbing to stand atop a 25 foot telephone pole, breathe deeply and leap for a suspended ball.

Pamper Plank

Just adjacent, and much like the Pamper Pole, this element is a challenge to leap for the suspended ball from atop a small platform, also 25 feet off the ground.

High Ropes Course

The Challenge Course has multiple uses. Most commonly we use a static, state of the art, Smart Snap belay system allowing participants to ascend the course and facilitate themselves as they tackle the multiple challenges in front of them. This course can also be used dynamically having a participant ascend, traverse and then descend one challenge element. Specific elements of this adventurous challenge course:

Jeebie Lunge

A mixture of the two line bridge and the multi-vines, this has proven to be the most challenging element on the course.

Islands in the Sky

Glide along the cables or leap from platform to wobbly platform.

Catwalk

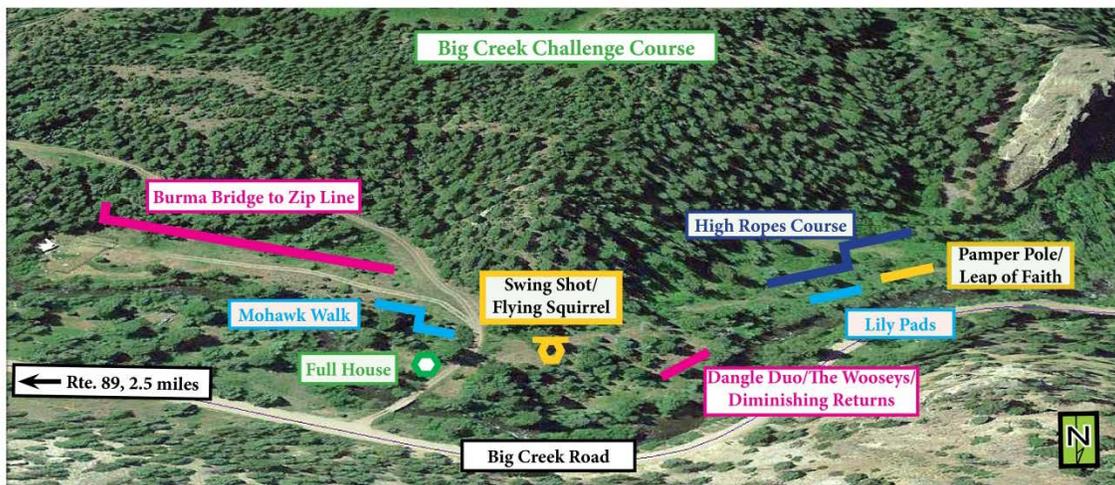
The catwalk is a medium single log bridge. Just like one you would use to cross a creek or a stream. Most of us would not think twice to cross this horizontal bridge until it is raised 25 feet in the air.

Multi-Vines

The multi-vines are a tightrope challenge with multiple ropes dangling down to aid you across. The ropes hang at different heights and are different lengths apart. Often portrayed as very difficult, once the technique is mastered this can be far easier than it appears.

Two-Line Bridge

This element is a side step across 3/8 inch cable using a loose horizontal rope to assist you. As you get to the center of the cable, the most unstable part, you will have the largest amount of slack in your hand line. You can push against or sit back and pull on the hand line as you glide across the cable.



Picnic tables and portable toilet on site.