



## INTRODUCTION TO WATERFALL ICE CLIMBING

5-Day Curriculum  
Ouray, CO  
PROGRAM ITINERARY

### Program Details:

Intermediate level students will continue to work on the skills established at the [2-day introductory level course](#). In addition to these, climbers will develop an understanding of rappelling techniques on ice, will practice following a leader and will begin technical leadership training. All students at the intermediate level will leave with an ability to manage a single-pitch top-roping site at an ice climbing area and will have foundational ice leadership skills.

### Difficulty Grade:

Moderate to Intermediate

### Program cost Inclusions and Exclusions:

**Inclusions:** Included in the course cost group technical climbing equipment, permits, the guide fee, ice tools, and crampons.

**Exclusions:** Food, lodging, transportation, personal equipment.

### Itinerary:

#### Day 1

Meet your guide at the Breakfast on Main ([630 Main St #766, Ouray, CO 81427](#)) at 8:00 am for a pre-trip orientation. Please leave your climbing packs in your vehicles; we will verbally go over gear to bring for the day. Please bring food and water for a full day of climbing. We will then head to the Ouray Ice Park (0.2 miles out of town), where basic and moderate ice climbing movement will be covered in the morning. In the afternoon, basic anchors, protection systems, and rappelling will be demonstrated and taught. The skills we cover on Day 1 will provide an excellent foundation for the rest of the curriculum.

#### Day 2

On our second day, the program will head back to the Ouray Ice Park. As a group, we will build our climbing anchors for the day and rappel into the canyon demonstrating competency in the material covered on Day 1. We will then typically work on steep ice and mixed climbing technique, ice protection, and a lead demo. Depending on the group, we may go into more advanced systems, including multi-pitch basics.



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### Day 3

As we progress into the curriculum in this course it will become more specific to the individuals who are signed up. That being said most groups will either return to the Ouray Ice Park for an introduction to multi-pitch on ice or head to Camp Bird to climb ice and or mixed terrain outside of the park. For students wanting to gain more experience in the backcountry, we will start covering trip planning, logistics, mountain judgement, and avalanche basics from here on out.

### Day 4 & Day 5

Depending on current conditions in the San Juans, the ability and interests of climbers in the course and the ratio of climbers to guides we will potentially start climbing multi-pitch waterfalls and put all of our skills that we have practiced throughout the course to the test. These days may also be used to focus on mock leads, real leads, and any other material that climbers want to cover or that has not yet been covered on the course.