

# Iowa Challenge Training Consortium 2026 COPE & Climbing Training



## Become a COPE/Climbing Facilitator in your local BSA Councils!

**Mid-Iowa – Hawkeye Area – Northeast Iowa - Winnebago - Blackhawk  
Mitigwa - Howard H Cherry - CS Klaus - Ingawanis - Canyon - Lowden**

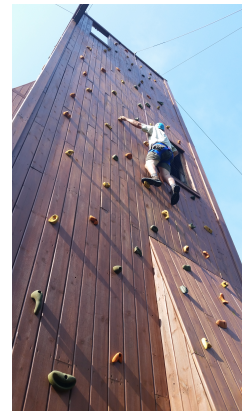
### 3 Training Modules:

- COPE & Climbing Foundation Training
  - Fundamentals of COPE & Climbing
  - Initiative Games
  - Safety Measures
  - Life Safety Systems
  - Emergency Procedures
  - Climbing Tower & Zip Line Operation
  - **April 17-19, 2026 at Ingawanis Adventure Base**
- COPE Instructor Training
  - Prerequisite: COPE & Climbing Foundation Training
  - More initiative games
  - High COPE & Tower Operation
  - Low COPE
  - Team-building
  - **May 1-3, 2026 at Howard H Cherry Scout Reservation**
- Natural Rock Climbing Instructor Training
  - Prerequisite: COPE & Climbing Foundation Training
  - Climbing techniques
  - Climbing classification
  - Anchor systems
  - Site selection and management
  - Natural rock climbing programs at Backbone State Park
  - *Climbing Merit Badge Clinic on Saturday: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM September 26, 2026 at Backbone State Park*
  - **September 25-26, 2026 at Camp CS Klaus**



Youth and adult participants are welcome. Level of certification available varies according to age and demonstrated competence:

- Level II Instructors must be at least age 21
- Level I Instructors must be at least age 18
- Instructors in Training must be at least age 16
- Scouts age 14-15 are welcome to attend and participate in running programs, but cannot earn certification



Watch for registration details on the calendar page of your council websites.

**Contact for questions:**

|                            |                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Mid-Iowa Council</u>    | <a href="http://www.midiowacouncilbsa.org">www.midiowacouncilbsa.org</a> |
| <u>COPE/Climbing Chair</u> |                                                                          |
| Darren Geil                | <a href="mailto:darrenandr@aol.com">darrenandr@aol.com</a>               |

|                             |                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Hawkeye Area Council</u> | <a href="http://www.hawkeyebsa.org">www.hawkeyebsa.org</a>     |
| <u>COPE/Climbing Chair</u>  |                                                                |
| Fred Ullrich                | <a href="mailto:phallrik@hotmail.com">phallrik@hotmail.com</a> |

|                               |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Northeast Iowa Council</u> | <a href="http://www.scoutsiowa.org">www.scoutsiowa.org</a>         |
| <u>COPE/Climbing Chair</u>    |                                                                    |
| Ben Smith                     | <a href="mailto:bssmith1939@gmail.com">bssmith1939@gmail.com</a>   |
| Travis Mensen                 | <a href="mailto:travismensen@gmail.com">travismensen@gmail.com</a> |

|                            |                                                                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Winnebago Council</u>   | <a href="http://www.winnebagoobsa.org">www.winnebagoobsa.org</a>       |
| <u>COPE/Climbing Chair</u> |                                                                        |
| Tim Bleadorn               | <a href="mailto:waverly.camper@gmail.com">waverly.camper@gmail.com</a> |

|                             |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Blackhawk Council</u>    | <a href="https://blackhawkscouting.org/">https://blackhawkscouting.org/</a> |
| <u>COPE/Climbing Chairs</u> |                                                                             |
| Nolan Halla &               | <a href="mailto:hallanolan677@gmail.com">hallanolan677@gmail.com</a>        |
| Alex Kloepping              | <a href="mailto:alexkloepping@gmail.com">alexkloepping@gmail.com</a>        |

**Registration opens January 4, 2026. To Register, go to;**  
**<https://www.winnebagocouncil.org/calendar/>, navigate to April 17 on the**  
**calendar, and click on the COPE & Climbing Training event or click here:**  
**<https://mycouncil.winnebagocouncil.org/Event/6260> to go to the**  
**Foundation Training event.**

**Fees:      \$40 per weekend event (includes food, lodging, and equipment)**