

OPEN CLIMB FAQ

1. **When does it happen? What are the hours?** The first Saturday of the month, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, October through June
*Note: we will not climb in July, August, or September due to heat.
2. **Do I need reservations?** No, we run the program on a "First Come, First Serve" basis.
3. **Where is it?** Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 1310 22nd Ave S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
4. **How much does it cost?** \$10 per climber. This is an all day pass that allows each climber to climb for 30 minute intervals.
5. **How old do you have to be to climb?** Minimum age is 6 years old. No exceptions.
6. **What if it's raining?** Hard rain, thunder and lightning will cancel the event.
7. **What should I wear? What should I bring?** Climbers will be more comfortable wearing pants or shorts that hang around the knee. No midriff shirts or flip-flops. Sneakers or sandals with back straps are best. The correct clothing will prevent chafing from the tree climbing gear (harness, ropes, etc.) Long hair should be tied back. You may also want to bring water. Gloves are provided upon request. We encourage you to bring a camera to capture the moment.

Additionally, we are collecting food donations for *Operation Attack* during our open climbs. *Operation Attack* is an outreach under the stewardship of Lakeview Presbyterian that helps low income families in times of need. Please consider bringing peanut butter, canned tuna, pasta, or canned vegetables and fruit.

8. **Do I have to be in great shape? What about arm strength?** The sport of canopy tree climbing can be enjoyed by almost anyone. It's all about coordination. The process by which you climb involves stepping into a foot loop, standing, and then pushing a knot up; this enables people to climb at their own pace. Some young children will find it challenging.
9. **How safe is the tree? Will the limbs hold me?** We climb on a live oak, one of nature's strongest trees. Every tree is certified by an arborist, and re-inspected at least every three years. The limbs that we loop the ropes around are no less than 6 inches in diameter. Before each event, Pathfinder staff tests each rope.
10. **What is Pathfinder's safety record with tree climbing? Has anyone fallen?** We have a 100% safety record. While rare, the only incidents that have occurred are small blisters or the occasional rope burn which can be avoided by descending properly.
11. **How will I learn how to climb?** All climbers participate in a brief "ground school" training that teaches you the climbing process. You'll be fitted with a harness and helmet by the staff. When we hook you into the tree, we will also be giving you individual attention to ensure that you lift off the ground.
12. **If I'm not climbing where can I observe the climb?** The area around the tree is roped off. For your safety, only those climbing are permitted inside the roped area. Observers are still close enough for a good view.