

Private Tree Climbs

Private tree climbs will be available one Saturday of the month as scheduling allows, or you may choose to schedule one after the open climb which occurs on the first Saturday of the month (1:30-3:30). Note: no open climbs July-September.

1. **How many participants do I need to have to book a climb?** We can accommodate 15-36 climbers per event.
2. **How much does it cost?** Fees are \$15 per person with a minimum of 15 climbers and a maximum of 36, *When* the event follows an existing open climb. A private climb can also be scheduled as a stand-alone event for a \$600 fee which accommodates up to 36 climbers for 3 hours. Each additional hour is \$125 and may accommodate an additional 12 climbers.
3. **Where are the climbs located?** All open climbs are held at Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 1310 22nd Ave S., St Petersburg, Florida. Stand-alone events may also be scheduled for an additional fee at Dayspring, Cedarkirk, or Boyd Hill Nature Park.
4. **How long is the private climbing event?** 2 hours if scheduled after an open climb; three plus hours if scheduled as a stand-alone event.
5. **How old do you have to be to climb?** Minimum age is 6 years old; No exceptions. Additionally, waist size cannot be smaller than 26", regardless of age.
6. **What makes a private climb special?** First, you will have unlimited, private use of the tree where each participant may climb up and down as many different ropes as they like. In addition, each climber receives a colorful carabiner party favor. For celebrations that honor one person (i.e. birthdays, graduation, etc), the celebrant receives a Pathfinder T-shirt.
7. **What if it's raining?** Hard rain, thunder and lightening will cancel the event.
8. **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.) You may also want to bring water. Gloves are provided upon request. We encourage you to bring a camera to capture the moment.
9. **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 in which you climb involves stepping into a foot loop, standing, and then pushing a knot upwards; this enables people to climb at their own pace. Some young children will find it challenging.
10. **How safe is the tree? Will the limbs hold me?** We climb a live oak, one of nature's strongest trees. Every tree is certified by an arborist, and re-inspected every three years. The limbs that we loop ropes around are no less than 6 inches in diameter. Before each event, Pathfinder staff tests each rope to assure the safety of the climb.
11. **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.
12. **How will I learn how to climb?** All climbers participate in a brief "ground school" training that teaches the climbing process.
13. **If I'm not climbing, where can I observe the climb?** The area around the tree is roped off. For your safety, we ask that you remain outside the roped off area which still allows an observer a good view.