All Scouts MUST Read “The Climbing Merit Badge Book”
Scouts must have already completed requirement
# 1 - First Aid and CPR
Scouts must have already completed requirement
# 7a-e - Knots for Climbing and Rappelling.

Scouts may be tested on the spot on their knots.
• Important! Please bring signed blue card filled out for the Climbing Merit Badge.*

Need signoff on climbing knots!!

Demonstrate the ability to tie each of the following knots. Give at least one example of how each knot is used in belaying, climbing, or rappelling.

a. **Figure eight on a bight** - Can be used to attach a line to an anchor via a carabiner. Let’s say you’ve rigged an equalizing anchor, you can then use a figure 8 on a bight with a carabiner to connect your static line to the anchor.
b. **Figure eight follow-through**  Can be used to tie two ropes together, as a simple anchor, or to back up a ‘no-knot’. Often we see the figure 8 follow through used in climbing/ rappelling when tying into a harness.

c. **Water knot (water bend)** Used primarily with flat tubular webbing
for building anchors and improvised seat harnesses. Once loaded, the water knot can be difficult to untie. Try rolling it between your palms, or getting it wet.

**Water Bend (tie webbing together)**

1. **Step 1**
2. **Step 2**
3. **Step 3**

4 inch tails
d. **Double fisherman's knot** (grapevine knot) A primary use of this knot is to form high strength loops of cord for connecting pieces of a climber's protection system. Another common use for this knot is to back up a critical knot, such as a harness tie-in knot or single-line rappel rigs. In this use, the running end is tied around the standing end of the rope, so that it cannot slip back through the knot.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

Pull → Pull → Pull →
e. Safety knot for climbing

A safety knot, or stopper knot, added to a knot such as a figure eight follow-through will help keep the free end of a rope from working itself back through the primary knot. This effective safety knot is also called the barrel knot, one-sided grapevine knot, and half a double fisherman’s knot. Form it by loosely looping the tail of the rope twice around the standing part; run the end up through the two loops thus formed (the same method used to tie the first portion of the double fisherman’s knot, described later in this chapter). Work any slack out of the safety knot so that it lies snug against the knot it is protecting. Use the overhand or half hitch as a safety knot in webbing.

To tie a stopper knot in the end of the rope, follow these steps.

1. 
2. 

Step 1: Form a loop. Step 2: Form a second loop behind the first one, as shown.

3. 

Step 3: Pass the end back through both loops.

4. 

Step 4: Pull tight.
Alt - another **Safety knot** (also known as the bowline knot)
Climbers typically pass the tail outside the loop and under the collar to form a Yosemite Tie-off (left) or they fasten the tail with a double overhand knot either to the adjoining loop or to the standing end (right & below). Bowline on it’s own is on left, with tieoff on right
Can be used to attach rope to carabiner, but is better on an eyed snap or biner.
This knot saw some bad press when a climber tied into the wrong loop of the knot!